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MVA partially lights up Beach Road Pathway. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

LAWMAKERS TELL CUC OFFICIALS:

'RO system not the magic bullet to CUC water woes'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House lawmakers heard from local utilities company officials on power and water issues during a hearing on Capitol Hill yesterday and widely criticized their plans for a reverse-osmosis system.

See CUC on Page 4

THOMAS MANGLONA II

From left, back row, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, First Lady Dianne Torres, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Mayor David Apatang pose for a photo with Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop-elect Ryan Jimenez, and former and current diocesan members at a press conference yesterday at the diocesan curia.

Torres, Kilili join in welcoming bishop-elect

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

In his first press conference since being appointed bishop by Pope Francis, bishop-elect Ryan Jimenez addressed questions from local media in front of diocesan, government, and department officials at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa office yesterday.

Joining in welcoming Jimenez was Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"It has been six years. It has been a long time. Fr. Ryan has shown his

See TORRES on Page 4

'TEC willing to shoulder airfare for abandoned Dynasty employees'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new investors seeking to take over the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has expressed interest in shouldering airfare costs for the hundreds of employees left on Tinian by the previous hotel owner.

The new investors, Tinian Entertainment Corp., was unanimously awarded a conditional casino license by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission on Friday as Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas was organizing efforts to move the affected workers to the Tinian Gymnasium and Youth Center, from a barracks that had been cut off its power and had rationed food and fuel.

"[Head investor] Tim Chen announced he is willing to pay for airfare of TDHC employees to their home countries," San Nicolas told

See TEC on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Mami Ikeda's family has lived here for nearly 40 years. She and her mother, father, and brother made Saipan their home in the 1970s.

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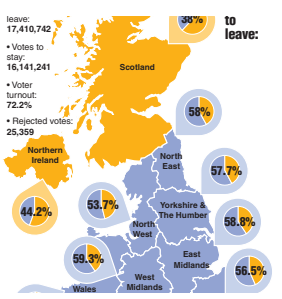
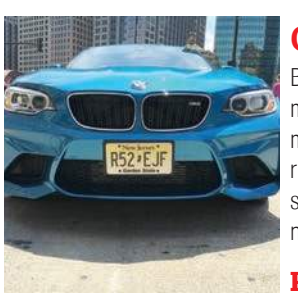


BUSINESS
In the streets of the City of London, the heart of Britain's global financial hub, it's difficult to find someone who voted to leave the European Union.

PAGE 14



OVERDRIVE
BMW's all-new M2 coupe is the most intimate of sports car performances. Everything about it feels right, cruising along the highway or slinging the stick in and out of corners on the track.

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Local

Hunter confirmed to top DCCA post

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Before a crowd of Cabinet heads, top local officials, staff, and supporters, the Senate on Friday confirmed Robert Hunter to the post of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary.

In an interview after the hearing, Hunter said they are currently working with grantors on the certification of personnel.

"We are getting those personnel certified, whether it's safety or as inspectors or whatever certifications are required. There are deadlines coming up so we're trying to make sure that we do the things we need to do to make sure manage we get properly and of course, we are looking at additional grants."

Asked about initiatives in the community the department is starting up or making stronger, Hunter said they are looking at programs in the local arts council for example, after they "put into place all that we need to put into place there," to focus on traditional canoe programs, craft programs, among others.

He also said for the baseball field and basketball courts and sports properties, they are already starting to coordinate youth activities at those.

"We are sitting down now to formulate a collective plan for the year," he said.

He also noted concerns with historical permit processing, which falls under his department through the Historic Preservation Office.

"HPO has its role. And that's to protect and manage historic properties…A lot of the issues that usually come up are related to the amount of time it takes with regard to the permitting process so we want to make sure that works," he said.

Hunter was appointed to the DCCA secretary post by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in March and after the window had lapsed for Senate confirmation on his first appointment, Torres again appointed him formally in recent weeks.

DENNIS B. CHAN

New Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, center, stands with senators after they voted to confirm his appointment to the department's top post on Friday.

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WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2017 Plan is now available for review and the public comments from June 23, 2016 to June 29, 2016. Interested member of the general public may review the WIC 2017 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located at Mayoria Ave Building No. N-25. Our office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm (Monday – Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than June 29, 2016.

/s/ Esther L. Muna
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Erin Angela Camacho
WIC Program Administrator

VOICES:

Mami Ikeda

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Mami Ikeda, 49, will have to leave the CNMI in September due to the contract workers cap. Her family has lived in the islands for nearly 40 years.

Editor's note: In Saipan Tribune*'s latest weekly series, "Voices" shares the stories of those in the CW community and sheds light on those directly affected by the humanitarian crisis in the CNMI.*

Mami Ikeda's family has lived here for nearly 40 years. She and her mother, father, and brother made Saipan their home in the 1970s. Although Ikeda moved back to Japan after her mother fell ill, her brother, Kazunori, and father stayed to live and work in the islands. They were laid to rest at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Ikea, 49, is the only one in her family left on Saipan. She spends her days processing documents for individuals and corporations—a job she's had for nine years since returning to the island. She told *Saipan Tribune* that she even processes papers for contract workers whose papers were renewed.

The past few weeks have been hard on her job. While she passes along other people's documents for renewal, Ikeda will have to leave in September. Like many others who did not reach the threshold to continue working in the CNMI, she says she will have to leave everything she has behind.

"This is where I grew up," she said. "Nobody is going to look after my bother and father's grave. I really don't want to leave them."

Ikeda sympathized with families in similar or even worse situations. "Too many families are being separated because they have children who were born here. This is their kids' only home." She added, "It's so hard for them to bring them over if they are affected and need to leave because it costs so much. The majority of people who are affected happens to be those who have been here for 10, 20, or 30 years."

When they reach their date of expiration, contract workers must leave within 10 days.

"What can you do in 10 days after living here for decades?" she asked. "People are devastated."

Ikeda joins the wide call for improved status for those who have lived in the islands for many years. She said that is would give a number of people "peace of mind" because they have family here, who call Saipan their home too.

While Ikeda dreadfully waits for September to come, she expressed hope for an immediate solution.

"As you know, businesses are being affected by that and they are closing already. This is not just a contract worker problem, it's the whole CNMI the whole business industry," she explained. "I would like the federal officials to hopefully understand the situation when they came over for the meeting. I am hoping they do something about it."

Ikeda was able to share her story and concerns in a recent meeting with local officials and representative from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. During her address, she noted that when people, such as contract workers, are so essential to the community and its development "then officials should consider that they need to stay."

If there's no meaningful action taken, Ikeda will have to leave, following in the path of countless other workers who have already departed the island.

"I don't have funds to go home. When I came back in 2009, I left Japan for good. I did not leave anything there," she said. "I did not leave a thing there…If I had to leave I would have no place to go back to in Japan. It is going to cost me a lot. I could maybe come back as a new hire, but I don't know how long that is going to take."

If that day comes, Ikeda said that she knows so many people support her and others.

"I've made so much friends since 2009 than I did in Japan. People here are already my family. I am blessed with so many people."

Ikeda has maintained an active voice in the developing situation. She started a Facebook page and website called "Faces of CWs" to connect workers and express the concerns of those affected. Visit www.facesofcws.com to view the group's activities.

MVA partially lights up Beach Road Pathway

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway was partially lit last Friday night with the entire project covering the entire 5-kilometer stretch to be completed in a few more months. The area from First Hawaiian Bank to Quartermaster Road was lit last week.

Lampposts from Quartermaster to the Cabrera Center, the second phase of the project, were also switched on a few days after Friday's ceremony.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce turned on the switch along with Parks and Recreation director Eli Cabrera, Brianna Fejeran, former MVA board member Chris Nelson, and Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, deputy managing director Judy Torres, marketing manager Bruce Bateman, projects manager Martin Duenas, destination enhancement specialist Tatiana Babauta, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan)and Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan), CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, former MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, and project construction manager Sonya Dancoe were also present.

"We're hoping people would stop vandalizing public properties like the pathway lights. We should take care of efforts to beautify our island and people should report to the police if they see someone stealing the copper wires," said Rep. Guerrero.

Apatang said that it was about time that the pathway gets lighted again since a lot of people from the community use it for recreational purposes while also being an attraction for tourists.

"The project faced a lot of obstacles. We experienced a number of typhoons last year with Typhoon Soudelor the strongest where the lights and posts were damaged. A few weeks ago someone stole the copper wires."

He said that the Saipan Mayor's Office and Parks & Recreation are tasked to maintain the Beach Road Pathway including the lights with the help of project contractor RNV Construction. "We need the community's help in keeping an eye on people who have the destructive attitude on the ongoing beautification projects that our office, the MVA, and other agencies have been doing."

JON PEREZ

Division of Parks and Recreation director Eli Cabrera, right, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, left, and former Marianas Visitors Authority board member Chris Nelson, second left, react after MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, third left, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Brianna Fejeran turn on the switch in last Friday's partial lighting ceremony of the Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

"A lot of our local residents use the pathway for recreational purposes. They run, jog, walk, and ride their bikes here, while it also a tourist attraction where one can enjoy the beautiful sunset that is also an asset of our island," said Apatang.

Cabrera said the community could now enjoy walking or running even at night. "Now a lot of people from our community can feel safe while walking or running at night. The pathway is also a place where families could enjoy quality time."

"We're hoping that nobody would anymore attempt to steal the copper wires or destroy the lamps and the posts so people could use the pathway for exercise and enjoy watching the sunset."

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Mazda3 Sedan or Hatchback total price is $19,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $308.50 or $142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $18,510.00.

ACG wants to open hospitality college on Tinian

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alter City Group is aiming to open a college on Tinian as part of their long-term goal of jumpstarting the economy of Saipan's neighboring island. The planned college would offer four-year degree programs mainly in the hotel and tourism industry, the CNMI economy's lifeblood.

ACG Holdings Limited of Macau president and board chair Ian Leong Kin said although they are still a young company they have a lot of plans and projects lined up for Tinian and the college is one of them aside from the $1.2-billion world class hotel, casino, and golf resort.

Kin is on Saipan and will fly to Tinian today to attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the Plumeria Resort at the Puntan Diablo Cove. ACG investors, CNMI government and Tinian officials, and other invited off-island guests and VIPs are expected to attend the ceremony.

Kin said they would like to create more job opportunities and increase the talent of the local workforce. And opening up a college is one way for the younger generation to have an option of staying here and no longer leave their families to work in the mainland.

"That's why we're planning of building a college where the curriculum and courses will be mainly in the tourism and hospitality industry. For the younger generation to stay and work here and to also support the local tourism industry," said Kin through an interpreter.

He added that this is part of their long-term investment for the island and its people. Hotel and restaurant management, culinary arts, tour guides, events planning, and translators are some of the jobs in the hospitality and tourism industries.

"We want to enhance the development and growth of Tinian, to give the local workforce more job opportunities and improve Tinian's economy. That's why we're honored and pleased by the support of the CNMI government, especially Tinian officials, have given us," said Kin.

The faculty and instructors of the planned college will be composed of people who worked and have experience in the hospitality, hotel, and tourism industries. Their partners in the United States will accredit all courses that will be offered.

ACG chief executive officer Edvon Sze added that they are also looking at using the existing facilities of the Northern Marianas College's Tinian campus. "We're going to help fund and support the NMC and one of our options there is to use the same facilities."

Sze said they are carefully planning their every step especially for the planned college. "From the educational materials, faculty, and staff. We want everything to go as planned since this is a lifelong process."

"We want to have top caliber education offered in the college where students from other Asian countries would come and study here and no longer go to the mainland," said Sze, who added that they also want local students who would finish their courses to stay and work in the CNMI.

"Once they finish the courses, they work here and help promote the CNMI as a tourist destination like Hawaii, where the hospitality industry is also a major part of the local economy."

CUC

From Page 1

Some lawmakers challenged the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s priorities, pointing to the utilities company's 70 percent in unaccounted for water and while some board members touted the RO treatment plans, the board also cautioned the plans were still being debated.

Nevertheless, the $160 million to construct the RO plant, funding for which would be financed through taking on debt, was still challenged.

"You're saying there is one magic bullet. I beg to differ," said House vice speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), responding to CUC board member Ignacio Perez after he touted the RO plans. "The problem with RO is that no matter how cheap it is we are going to be charged per gallon and those are going to be charged to our customers.

"So consider other options," the vice speaker added, "before you decide to go with one magic bullet."

Guerrero said over the years, the House has had all kinds of experts come up with all kinds of solutions to them. He noted an early Army Corps of Engineer study done several years ago that proposed over 20 recommendations on how the CNMI could address the water issue, with some being very costly and some practical,

He noted the RO plan was in the report. "I don't think it is ranked high up there. I do believe we need to fix our leaks. We can't supplement our water, then lose it," especially with the RO system where customers would be paying per gallon.

Guerrero wanted to know if CUC was systemically approaching water leak issues.

CUC chief engineer for water and wastewater John Riegel said Saipan's system was complicated, with its changes in topography from Beach Road to Mt. Tapoachau. And said CUC has approached leaks tank service area to tank service area, starting with an area that shows a great amount of leakage, from higher leaks to lower.

They started at Dandan, according to Riegel, and the San Vicente and will then move down to Koblerville, As Matuis, then Garapan. But he also stressed the only money we get to put into the effort is "from a couple of small EPA grants."

"Yes. We are systematically approaching it," Riegel said, responding to the vice speaker. "We do have a game plan." He also said they would be able to "quantify" whether losses came from leakage, theft, or unaccounted for water to rectify water billings.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) also shared the vice speaker's sentiments on "having priorities." "When we heard about this RO system, there was a lot of questions and there continues to be a lot of questions," Propst said.

"Is the RO system the answer to our prayers and it will solve all our problems with regards to water?" he added, going on to relay constituents' complaints about why there were only three hours of water a day where they lived or why was their "water trickling?"

Propst believes the question is what is "the greater problem" is it with, production or distribution? "Where is our focus?" he said. At costs of $160 million to produce more water, he said he was "deeply concerned" they could talk about financing when CUC recently fired without cause its chief financial officer.

"That is scary," he said, and in terms of court stipulated orders, he noted that CUC faces fines up to $56 million.

"$56 million in fines and we just recently fired our CFO and we are talking about RO system," he said, going on to note vacant top utility management positions, like the executive director positions, among others, for which CUC faces fines up to $5,000 a day.

"We are moving on with RO plan when there are far greater priorities...We are operating at a 70-percent loss everyday," he said, noting concern that the project would cost $160 million and amortized after 25 or 30 years would "balloon" to over $300 million.

"Unfortunately there is no CFO right now. It is most crucial to have a chief financial officer to answer the questions that we will pose about this RO system."

Propst also warned against any sole-source contracts that could be awarded for this project.

Responding to Propst, CUC board director Eric San Nicolas said there was "no hidden agenda" and that they inherited issues longstanding for 25 years.

"I do not support anything that will raise rates," he said.

Noting the $26 million the central government owes CUC, San Nicolas said, "I challenge every congressman to draft an appropriation to address that consistently on a monthly basis."

He said the board is entertaining "real incremental solutions because we don't have all the finances" and that an RO system was possibly one of them but "we haven't made a decision... we continue to debate."

"We have so many backlash from the media," San Nicolas said, going on to complain that a CUC fuel contract signed with Mobil Oil Marianas several years was "never controversial" and "it went through."

"Take those two and compare. The $370 million was never controversial, it went through, and yet a potential that hasn't even been entertained by the board" has been, he said.

He pleaded lawmakers to address the government's debt to CUC.

During his presentation, CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho made a Power Point presentation on, among others, CUC's water distribution issues.

A "possible solution?" A 6-million gallon RO to meet current and future water needs, according to his report.

The system would meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards and would be located at Lower Base adjacent to CUC's Power Plant 1, the report said. CUC deems this the best location due to its close proximity to water wells, brine injection wells, and existing fuel storage facilities.

The plant would be housed in a concrete structure designed to withstand 175 miles per hour wind load and would include full power from rebuilt generators from Power Plant II, Camacho's report said.

An existing 9-million gallon below grade tank at Sadog Tasi would also be rehabilitated for storage and the RO plant could be expanded at any time to 9 million gallons to meet future demands.

CUC proposes to enter into a private public partnership. Financing the project through issuance of certificates of participation issued by public partner at an anticipated interest rate of 5 to 7 percent.

Debt would be capitalized for three years and principal deferred for another two years, the CUC report said.

This means CUC plans to make no payments until the beginning of the third year of RO operation.

CUC said the three years would allow system improvements, needed rate adjustments, and improved cash flows before payments begin.

TORRES

From Page 1

compassion to the people and that is definitely what we need here," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

He notes that he will be working close with the bishop-elect once he assumes his official capacity in the diocese.

"I know there is a separation of Church and state, but we do need a lot of faith-based assistance to our programs, especially the meth issues that we are having around the island and our rehabilitation program," Torres explained.

Torres said that the appointment is a "good step" for the CNMI. He described the news as a "blessing" for the islands.

"He [Fr. Ryan] is very compassionate and caring. He is very personal and makes you feel loved and that your presence at Church is important," he added. "Not just in the Church but outside too. That to me is very important to have our new bishop be personal with the community."

For his part, Sablan recognized the role the diocese plays in the islands.

"The Church plays an important role in any community. I am just so glad that Bishop Camacho is still here with us to see his successor take on the role."

The congressman also reiterated Bishop-Emeritus Tomas Camacho's call on the community to support Jimenez.

"Fr. Ryan has big shoes to fill," Sablan added. "I am very happy with the appointment. It is about time."

Jimenez is expected to be ordained by the Pope's representative, Archbishop Martin Krebs, on Aug. 14.

TEC

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune in an email yesterday.

Tinian Entertainment Corp. is a subsidiary of Chinese Strategic, which is closely associated with Chen. Chinese Strategic is a Hong Kong stock exchange trading company and one of the initial investors with Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. for the purchase of HKE, which currently owns Tinian Dynasty.

On Saturday, the Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI, Glicerio Arago, met again with affected overseas workers affected by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's practical abandonment of them, meeting with about 60 people, mostly workers and their families, in Natibu Park,

Workers filled out forms, or Philippine government "Assistance to Nationals" form, on the kind of assistance needed from the Philippine government.

"Workers and families have decided to go home," Arago representative Ariel Mariano earlier said.

San Nicolas earlier said that there are altogether about 200 affected workers, with several living outside in the community right now and about 148 people living in the Dynasty barracks, including young children.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had cut the barracks power two weeks ago Friday, prompting the mayor to reach out to local aid groups for much needed donations.

Dela Cruz takes oath as CPA ports police chief

Juan T. Dela Cruz took his oath yesterday as the Commonwealth Ports Authority's ports police chief before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

After Dela Cruz took his oath of office, his wife, Fausia, who was assisted by their son, pinned the badge on him during the brief ceremony held in Camacho's courtroom.

CPA board officials, officers, staff, and cadets, as well as Dela Cruz's family members, relatives, and friends attended the ceremony. Federal and local law enforcement officers also witnessed the swearing in.

Dela Cruz thanked the CPA board and management for having faith and confidence in him. He also expressed his gratitude to CPA staff and federal counterparts for attending the ceremony.

In an interview, the CPA ports police chief said he has been doing the job for three and a half years now so it is just another day at work, continuing to do his best as a public servant to the CNMI community as a whole.

Dela Cruz has been working for CPA for six years now. He first started work with CNMI Immigration. He once served as a special federal officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Task Force. Before joining CPA, he was assigned with the Office of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Juan T. Dela Cruz takes his oath of office as the Commonwealth Ports Authority ports police chief before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday.

HANMI occupancy down 5 pct in May 2016

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 77.38 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for May 2016, a 5-percent decrease compared to May 2015.

HANMI figures reports 55,506 of 71,734 available room nights sold in May 2016, compared to 58,487 of 71,393 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $130.32 during the month, compared to $123.88 last May.

"Occupancy rates were lower in May 2016, mirroring the reduction in visitor arrivals, as well," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Although Golden Week for the Japan market has not medaled in a long time, this year saw even worse decreases for the season.

This is just another reason why we should focus in developing new strategies for the already ailing market. In order to do this, we need all the funding that was earmarked for Marianas Visitors Authority. It is important to preserve the integrity of these funds. As our chairwoman of the MVA board said, we need money in order to make money."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(PR)***

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LAPIDAS
JUAN DELA CRUZ
Born: May 24, 1921
Died: February 16, 1997
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Psalm 23:6
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Alleged big supplier of 'ice' falls, $200K cash bail imposed

A cook at a restaurant in Garapan was arrested on Saturday for allegedly selling a total of 17.6 gross grams of methamphetamine or "ice" during two buy-bust operations.

Xiongying Xu, 47, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for bail hearing yesterday on charges of trafficking of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Camacho imposed a $200,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for July 5 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Xu. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Officer Rudolph C. Sablan Jr. stated in his report that a "cooperating defendant" managed to purchase 7 and 10.6 gross grams of "ice" during buy-bust operations on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Sablan said the seized substance was tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

Sablan stated that last Thursday he and another DETF member interviewed the "cooperating defendant" regarding Xu's drug activities.

The "cooperating defendant" disclosed that he/she has been purchasing "ice" from Xu for about five to six months now and that the last time was June 16 involving 25 grams worth $6,000.

Sablan said during the operation on Saturday afternoon the "cooperating defendant" was given $1,200 money and was able to buy 7 gross grams of "ice" from Xu inside Great Restaurant in Garapan.

Sablan said during the second operation on Saturday night, the "cooperating defendant" ordered 25 grams of "ice" from Xu.

Sablan said the "cooperating defendant" only managed to buy 10.6 gross grams of "ice" from Xu inside the defendant's car in the parking lot of the Korean Church in China Town.

A marked police car later stopped Xu's car along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in front of J's Restaurant in Guao Rai, where they arrested him for drug charges. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

2 Corrections officers, cop plead not guilty in police brutality, theft cases

Two Corrections officers facing charges for police brutality and a police officer accused of stealing a cell phone, all entered a not guilty plea during yesterday's arraignment in the Superior Court.

Corrections Officers Ray Anthony M. Camacho and Amisen Dasio Haddy, through their respective counsels, assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit and attorney Benjamin Petersburg, waived formal reading of the charges in the information and waived advisement of their constitutional rights.

Camacho, 36, and Haddy, 48, pleaded not guilty to the information charging each of them with one count of assault and battery.

Police Officer Florencio Q. Falig, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, waived formal reading of the charges in the information and waived advisement of his constitutional rights.

Falig, 47, pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with one count of theft.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo set a status conference for Aug. 2, 2016 at 1:30pm in the case against Camacho and Haddy. The status conference in Falig's case will be on Sept. 13, 2016 at 1:30pm.

Govendo ordered the clerk of court to appoint a new counsel for Camacho after assistant public defender Nesbit informed the court that their office has a conflict of interest in this matter.

Assistant attorney general Barbara P. Cepeda appeared for the government in the two cases.

At the preliminary hearing last Thursday, Govendo found probable cause to charge Camacho with assault and battery.

According to assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley in the information, Camacho and Haddy beat up Ryan Cavalear, who is an inmate at the Department of Corrections, last March 31.

Baisley said Camacho and Haddy applied excessive force in handling inmate Cavalear on multiple occasions, including handcuffing him while not resisting; pulling back victim's arm with excessive force and to cause pain; forcing victim's head and neck down with excessive force and to cause pain; stepping on the victim's arms and body in opposite direction with excessive force and to cause pain; hitting the victim in the face while he was restrained, "as well as other unlawful acts of striking, beating, or wounding the victim."

Police said Cavalear alleged that he was raising his voice because his pain medication was lost that prompted Camacho and Haddy to beat him up inside his cell at DOC.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that according to the 33-year-old Cavalear, he raised his voice not to show disrespect to the Corrections officers, but out of frustration and pain.

In Falig's case, Govendo found probable cause to charge the defendant with one count of theft during the preliminary hearing last Thursday.

Assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas stated in the information that Falig stole a woman's Gold Samsung Galaxy J2 cell phone last June 8 on Saipan.

Police said Falig stole the cell phone that a teacher forgot at a store in Kagman and that the act was caught by the store's surveillance camera. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

War Survivor Day today in Guam

Today is the annual day set aside to recognize war survivors in Guam.

The annual War Survivor Day became official through legislation sponsored last year by Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. that was signed into law and declares June 28 as the annual special holiday in their honor.

"While we continue to fight for appropriate recognition of their suffering in U.S. Congress, we must do everything we can here in Guam to honor the memories and the stories of those who endured so much," Blas said. "The legacy and heritage of our war survivors, known as our Greatest Generation, should be recognized by all the people of Guam."

The date of June 28 is held in memorial every year in honor of the June 28, 1947 transmittal from President Harry S. Truman to the U.S. House of Representatives requesting consideration of the appropriation submitted by the Navy Department to pay claims for death or personal injury to residents of Guam.

For more information, please contact the Office of Senator Frank F. Blas Jr., at 475-2527 or via email at frank.blasjr@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings go out to Ryle Yuan A. Montano. Greetings from your beloved family.

ALTER CITY GROUP

Alter City Group, Inc. is seeking for trusted individuals who is willing to take care responsibilities and challenges. Accepting qualified workers to apply for the following positions to be part of our team:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Duties: The role is directly responsible for the overall administration, coordination and evaluation of the human resource and administration functions. Develop HR strategy to short and long-range policy and operational issues. Provides effective human resources guidance and support to the business in staffing, compensation and benefit, performance management, employee relations, orientation, policy/procedure interpretation, organizational design and recognition, etc. Manage the development and implementation of staffing strategies to ensure effective recruitment, using practices consistent with company policies and legal requirements. Act as office manager to oversee and direct administrative service in the organization to ensure facility is equipped with supplies. Create and operate a reporting system that allows for timely flow of data between regions of the organization. Budgetary responsibilities include ensuring purchases are within assigned budget. Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- University/College graduate with minimum 5 years of related working experience.
- Excellent in oral and written communications.
- Local language ability would be an advantage and able to speak Chinese, Japanese or Korean would be a bonus.
- Willing to work flexible hours and must be able to occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).
- Applicants must be authorized to work in the US and its territories.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Duties: The role is responsible for providing highly responsible, confidential and complex secretarial assignments for the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. The Executive Assistant serves as the primary Contact person for internal and external constituencies on all matter pertaining to the Executive Office. Completes a broad variety of administrative tasks for the CEO & Managing Director including: managing an active calendar of appointments, composing and preparing correspondences; arranging complex and detailed travel plans, itineraries and agendas, compiling documents for all meetings and transcribing all meeting minutes. Successfully completes all aspects of critical deliverables including drafting letters, personal correspondences and other tasks that facilitate the Executive team's ability to effectively lead the company. Prioritizes all needs and handles matters confidentially, expeditiously, proactively, and follows-through on the successful completion of each project as assigned. Serves as the Executive team's liaison with all Governmental and non-governmental agencies. Follows up on contacts made by the Executive team and supports the cultivation of on-going relationships. Manages all communications for the Executive team by screening calls, letters and emails and determines which require priority. Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree required;
- Minimum of 5 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.
- Must be able to occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).

ENGINEER

Job Duties: The role is responsible for the accurate, thoughtful and timely design and engineering support to the Construction & Engineering Department. Ensures compliance of the project pursuant to the regulatory standards, approved plans and permits, including coordination with the contractor and/or developer pertaining to the project scheduled, control, standards and other issues. Provides technical support with the designs and estimates costs/quantities for the construction of the ACG Casino Resort. Performs a variety of engineering design, construction and maintenance related assignments as required as well as construction, cost estimating, project layout, subdivision, various plan and profile preparation, and CAD mapping/drawing. Reviews civil plans and specifications for compliance with current construction standards as well as building compliance. Aspects materials and workmanship in installation. Performs precise survey work, records and maintains accurate field notes and performs engineering calculations; maintains and updates accurate maps and engineering files. Oversees construction quality assurance. Attends all related meetings and reports the progress status of the project to the Executive Team. Performs all other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor or Masters of Science in Civil, Structural or Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management Architecture, or related discipline required;
- Five (5) years of previous work related experience;
- Experience and proficiency in AutoCAD/Civil 3D and MS Office;
- Experience with large facilities construction sites is preferred;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.
- Must be able to occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).

COST ACCOUNTANT/ANALYST

Job Duties: Planning, studying, and collecting data to determine costs of construction projections and other business activity such as materials and raw material purchases, inventory and labor; analyzing data collected and recording results; analyzing changes in construction or product design, raw materials, construction or manufacturing methods or services provided, to determine effects on cost; analyzing actual manufacturing costs and preparing periodic reports comparing standard costs to actual production costs; recording cost information for use in controlling expenditures; analyzing audits of costs and preparing reports; making estimates of new and proposed product costs; providing management with reports specifying and comparing factors affecting prices and profitability of products or services; maintaining Cost Accounting System; conducts physical inventories and monitors cycle count program; reconciles finished projects and inventories.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree in Accounting.
- A minimum of 5 years in Cost Accounting in a construction or manufacturing environment.
- Must have a strong Cost systems background and have excellent analytical skills; sound understanding of accounting principles.
- Computer Literate - Experienced in the use of Sage 50 Accounting System, Strong Excel skills and the ability to use Word and Power Point
- Experience working with engineering and manufacturing personnel on development and analysis of cost standards
- Ability to accurately prepare daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Knowledge and experience of in use of Sage 50 Accounting System and other computer applications commonly use in accounting e.g. Excel, Word, Power Point, etc..

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Job Duties: Facilitate the growth of the business for which he or she works. Working primarily with the sales and marketing departments, this experienced professional develops training plans to educate and motivate employees of a company to perform at their most profitable level.
Strategic planning for future development is a key part of this job description, responsible to develop the pipeline of new business coming into the company. This requires thorough knowledge of the marketplace.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's degree in a business field
- A minimum of 3 years of related working experience
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).
- Multilingual in Chamorro, Mandarin, Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Job Duties: Promotes products and services to customers and negotiates contracts with the aim of maximizing sales and profits. The role of a sales executive is to sell as many of their company's goods or services as possible.
Identifying new markets and business opportunities and arranging meetings with potential customers. Visiting potential customers for new business and developing and maintaining relationships. Making accurate cost calculations to provide customers with quotations. Advising on forthcoming product developments and discussing special promotions.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree required
- A minimum of 3 years of related working experience
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).
- Multilingual in Chamorro, Mandarin, Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Job Duties: Responsible for the public relations aspect within an organization. Builds and sustains a company's reputation for quality, reliability, and customer satisfaction. Writes and delivers press releases and handles all communication sent to the public. Manage company brand and reputation. Ensure public views the organization favorably. Create and launch press releases and marketing campaigns. Drive corporate strategy and message development, pitch and announcement strategies. Develop branding initiatives, internal communications and external media relations. Determines communications strategy and execute programs to deliver communications objectives throughout the organization. Develop communication strategies for delivery of corporate culture and business strategy. Manage media relations and maximize media opportunities. Develop strong relationships with media reps. Develop internal publications such as newsletters, releases, email announcements, planned publications, on-line, internet, video, special projects and assignments.
Create rich and creative content that is optimized for search engines.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's degree in communication
- A minimum of 3 years of related working experience
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and occasionally travel (overnight/day travel).
- Multilingual in Chamorro, Mandarin, Japanese, or Korean languages is advantageous.

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

Job Duties: Is a distinctive management function which helps establish and maintain lines of communication between an organizations and its publics. PR uses the editorial space within print publications, websites, television and radio shows to communicate a brand's message. Essentially it is about managing reputation. Writing promotional material and press releases. Producing brochures, leaflets and videos. Organizing press briefings and news conferences. Attending or setting up exhibitions and conferences. Gathering,
distributing and filling all media coverage generated for clients. Analyzing coverage and tracking emerging issues using digital tracking. Assisting with props or sets for a photo-shoot or assisting in setting up an event such as a client, meeting or a press briefing.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree required
- A minimum of 3 years of related working experience
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and occasionally travel (overnight/day travel)
- Multilingual in Chamorro, Mandarin, Japanese, or Korean languages is advantageous.

Interested applicants are requested to submit resume to Alter City Group, Inc. at ACG Building, Garapan St. or you can mail it to P.O. Box 505110 Saipan, MP 96950 or you can fax to 233-4999. It can be also e-mailed at careers@acgcnmi.com

US Attorney's Office to hold 2 trainings in line with Smart on Crime initiative

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Attorney's Office will be holding two trainings/conferences on Saipan in line with the Attorney General's "Smart on Crime" initiative that called for a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced more fairly and efficiently.

At a press conference on Friday, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco said the 2nd Annual "One Community CNMI" Conference: Earning Freedom and Reentry will be held at different venues on June 29 and 30, 2016.

Limtiaco said the 2nd Annual "One Community CNMI Conference: Employment and Reentry—Connecting Employers and Their Employers with Government Opportunities, and a Community Stakeholders Training will be held at Kanoa Resort Saipan in Susupe on June 30, 2016 from 8am to 5pm.

Limtiaco said the two conferences are an outcome of last year's "One Community CNMI" Conference: Engaging Community in Crime Prevention, Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Population and Reentry Efforts Through Workforce Development Strategy.

Last year's training promoted community collaboration and cooperation consistent with the initiative's goals, including bolstering prevention and reentry efforts to deter crime and reduce recidivism, and strengthening protections for vulnerable populations.

Limtiaco said as a result of last year's conference, they had a working group that was formed to talk about the recommendation or next step.

Limtiaco said with the first conference "Earning Freedom and Reentry," the June 29 and 30 training are not open to the general public and will be conducted with the Department of Corrections, Superior Court, Division of Youth Services, and the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The presenter or trainer is Michael G. Santos, who is an author of a book called "Earning Freedom: Conquering a 45-Year Prison Term."

Limtiaco said Santos, who is a prison consultant, is an ex-offender who had been convicted of a federal crime and was sentenced to 45 years imprisonment, but served 26 years of that 45-year sentence in federal penitentiary.

Limtiaco said during that time, Santos underwent self-reflection and was able to get himself formally educated within the confines of the prison.

"So when we talk about reentry program we are referring to program that are established in our federal and or state correctional institution that are there to help prepare those that are incarcerated and who are completing their terms of incarceration to be able to reenter society, reenter our community," she said.

Limtiaco said this reentry program has been implemented in other federal and state correctional institution in the U.S. mainland and is going to be introduced in the CNMI.

She said they have been working with the Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Services, Department of Labor, local and federal courts, and other community stakeholders for the June 29 and 30 training on this reentry program.

Such training will be conducted for adult and youth corrections staff, including corrections officers and case workers, social workers, and medical and mental and public health professions, working within or associated with the correctional institutions; law enforcement/prosecutors; public defenders/defense counsel; pretrial officers; probation officers; parole officers; and other related professionals working the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

The June 30 Community Stakeholders Training at the Kanoa Resort will be open to the public and community stakeholders from 1pm to 2:30pm. There will also be panel discussions from 9:30am to 4:45pm on "What Employers Need To Know" and "A Local Perspective: Employment Challenges, Best Practices and Resources, and presentation on "Earning Freedom and Reentry."

Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan said their role in this project with the U.S. Attorney's Office is to make sure that they intervene early and take care of obstacles that they need to address with the youth and adults that are entering the system who are characterized as at risks.

"So early prevention is the key. What we do is we try to stabilize by providing services from the moment they get in the system. And that means we address their school needs so we have healthy transition between us and when the kids go back to the schools," she said.

Sablan said they also address mental health services upon entry, and then from there they work with other support programs that are coming in from the community.

"We try to provide as many resources including getting them to be part of youth employment program with the Department of Labor," she said. "We also work closely with the other programs within DYS to make sure that we provide the many components that will help not only the child but the entire family in stabilizing themselves whether it's at a school setting or back at home."

Juvenile Probation Supervisor Sylvio Ada said the main thing is the education portion, which is the primary component of the rehabilitation.

"As part of the probation condition, not just recidivism but we are trying to prevent them from graduating to adult crimes, adult facility," Ada said.

Ada said there are two objectives—make sure that they don't return back into the system as juvenile and to make sure that they don't graduate into as adult offenders.

Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said at the end of the day, if people will look at the situation that they are facing, there is a serious drug issue in the Commonwealth.

"The foundation of the child begins at home," DeLeon Guerrero said.

She said it is very essential that the network of professionals in the community, be it employment and training, the Labor Department, DYS, the Disabilities Council, the education sector, the Northern Marianas College, everybody within the state workforce system at the state level and federal level, everybody's role is important to the client population that they are serving, whether the youth population or the adult population.

"We don't want a neighborhood of children growing up in some villages on Saipan and they are surrounded by drug dealers. I heard this a lot. Yes it's true," Deleon Guerrero said.

The Labor secretary said it's very sad that children are living in a community in a small island and they don't feel safe to step outside their door because someone is doing drugs next door and they don't want to talk because their life could be in jeopardy.

"We need to take back control of this community," she said.

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Attorney for: Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- VINCENT A. MANGLONA, BENITA A. MANGLONA, V.B. MANGLONA ENTERPRISES, TONGA GARDENS, PASEO DRIVE INCORPORATED, GUAM ISLA LP GAS AND APPLIANCE and MOBIL OIL MICRONESIA, INC. Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0194-CV **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona in the following described, real properties situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Fee simple title to:

Tract No. 22102, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2048/77 the original of which was registered 23 APR 79 as Document No. 8162 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Tract No 22214, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3017/87 the original of which was registered 28 FEB 89 as Document No. 89-0624 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Lot No. 053 R 01, Rota, containing an area of 535 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 053 R 00 the original of which was registered 19 JAN 94 as Document No. 94-0176 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Lot No. 001 R 07, Rota, containing an area of 836 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 R 00 the original of which was registered 21 NOV 71 as Document No. 1288 at Land Registry, Saipan.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 30, 2016,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**

2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235 7147; or to Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234 7256.

5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona in the property and any improvements thereon are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 31 day of May, 2016.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Worker sues over crane accident at Garapan construction site

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A construction worker has filed a lawsuit in federal court over a crane accident that caused a long and heavy pipe to roll, crushing his left leg at a hotel and casino project site in Garapan last February.

Anwar Hossain, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is suing his former employer, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., for allegedly violating the Workmen's Compensation Law and for negligence.

Hossain asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold MCC International liable to pay him $200,000 in lost wages and medical expenses, and $300,000 in non-economic damages, plus punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from MCC.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, MCC in 2015 began construction of Best Sunshine International, Ltd's hotel and casino project in Garapan and continues to work on the property with an expected completion date of February 2017.

Fitzgerald said that, on Jan. 23, 2016, MCC hired Hossain, a Bangladeshi, as a construction worker to work at the soon-to-rise Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort construction site.

On Feb. 4, 2016, MCC assigned Hossain to assist in the transfer of two piles of long and heavy pipes from one location at the construction site to a truck, which would remove the pipes from the site.

This task, Fitzgerald said, was to be accomplished using a crane, which would lift each pipe from the top of each pile, elevate it and move it over to be lowered onto the truck, which would then transfer it off the construction site.

The lawyer said Hossain's job was to make sure that guide wires from the crane's boom were secured to each pipe before it was lifted by the crane.

After successfully transferring numerous pipes, Fitzgerald said, Hossain secured the guide wires to a pipe, which the crane operator then raised in a very fast and careless manner, without waiting for the signal from Hossain or any of the other workers.

Fitzgerald said when the operator lifted the pipe in this rapid and careless manner, he knew that he was required to insure that the pipe was stable and even before continuing to elevate it, but he failed to do so, and continued to raise the pipe rapidly even though it was wobbling.

As the crane operator continued to raise the pipe, it tilted to one side and struck the pile of other pipes, causing the pile to collapse.

Fitzgerald said one of the pipes rolled on to Hossain's left leg, crushing it and causing excruciating pain and deep lacerations on both legs.

An ambulance took Hossain to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a crushed left leg and laceration of both legs.

Later, Fitzgerald said, the doctors discovered another wound on the right ankle and Hossain was taken back to the operating room on Feb. 17, 2016.

From the time of the accident and up to the present, Fitzgerald said, Hossain has been unable to work and has continued to suffer pain in the legs.

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Worker's Compensation Law, the lawyer said, MCC is liable for the payment of Workmen's Compensation benefits for injuries to or death of its workers, but has failed to provide any benefit to Hossain or pay for his medical treatment.

Since Feb. 4, 2016, Hossain has allegedly not been paid by MCC and because of his injuries, incurred while working under their employment he has been unable to work.

Despite being aware of his injuries and that Hossain was hospitalized from Feb. 4, 2016 to Feb. 27, 2016, MCC allegedly has failed to secure payment of Hossain's medical bills incurred as a result of his injury or any other benefits under the Commonwealth Workmen's Compensation Law.

As the construction company, Fitzgerald said, building the hotel on the worksite and having undertaken to employ workers to accomplish this, MCC was under a duty to provide these workers a safe worksite and working environment.

He said the negligence includes, among other things, failure to employ a qualified crane operator, failing to employ appropriate safety standards to be followed by its crane operators, and constructing the pipe moving operation with an insufficient number of workers to insure safe operation.

NMC to host 'Cash for College' workshop on June 30 on Tinian

The Northern Marianas College and College Access Challenge Grant program will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop that is aimed at assisting students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the College's Office of Admissions and Records and the Financial Aid Office will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process and answer questions regarding financial aid.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2014 and 2015, including proof of continuing residency.

The free "Cash for College" workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

For additional information, contact NMC Tinian at 433-0657/0649. ***(PR)***

'WE HAVE A DEAL' DENNIS B. CHAN

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs copies of a programmatic agreement meant to protect cultural artifacts and historic properties from the effects of a proposed divert airfield on Tinian, as U.S. Pacific Command's Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield looks on at the Governor's Office Thursday.

Another plane crash survivor seeks $261K judgment from Tinian Dynasty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another survivor in the 2006 plane crash in Upper Dandan and his wife have filed a court action in federal court after Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and its co-defendants are allegedly delinquent on payment of their $450,000 settlement deal.

Patrick James Timmerman and his wife, Maria Purley Agcaoili Timmerman, filed a motion on Friday, asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a judgment in the amount of $261,000 against defendants Tinian Dynasty, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., and Taga Air Charter Services Inc. pursuant to a previous court's order and the settlement agreement.

Patrick Timmerman is a licensed pilot who was then employed with Tinian Dynasty when the crash happened. He was seated next to the pilot, Brent J. Hinkemeyer.

Patrick Timmerman suffered severe and permanent injuries when a Piper Cherokee aircraft crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006.

Patrick Timmerman, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, sued all defendants except Hinkemeyer. His wife, Maria, and their minor son joined in the lawsuit.

Fitzgerald in his declaration in support of plaintiffs' motion to enter judgment, disclosed that his clients and the defendants entered a settlement agreement in December 2010.

Fitzgerald said pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement, defendants were required to make certain monthly payments to his clients.

Fitzgerald said if defendants became delinquent for more than 10 days from the due date of the payment, upon written notice to defendants, his clients shall be entitled to a judgment in an amount equal to the difference between $450,000 and the amount previously paid by defendants.

The Timmermans provided written notice to defendants last Jan. 19 that they were delinquent.

Up to this point, Fitzgerald said, defendants have paid $189,000 to plaintiffs and under the terms of the agreement, plaintiffs are entitled to a judgment in the amount of $261,000, the difference between $450,000 and $189,000.

Last April 20, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered HKE, owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, to pay $1.4 million to two other plane crash survivors to satisfy their settlement agreements.

Manglona said HKE shall pay $606,723.10 to Tomoyuki Nagata and $769,229.61 to Dr. Jun Takimoto and his family collectively, or for a total of $1,375,952.71.

Manglona issued the order after Nagata and Takimoto asked the court to enforce terms of the settlement agreement after HKE was delinquent in its payment pursuant to their settlement agreement.

The judge said pending further court's order, HKE shall refrain from the sale or transfer of any of its personal property, except in the normal course of business.

Timmerman, Takimoto, Nagata, and Yoko Kamiyama were among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006.

HKE settled the lawsuits filed by the survivors. The court subsequently dismissed the lawsuits in February 2010.

Cooperation needed among farmers, ranchers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized the importance of cooperation among local farmers and ranchers in order to find solutions to the problems that they face. The governor was the keynote speaker in last Saturday's 33rd Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair.

The Garapan Fishing Base, right beside the Garapan Public Market, was filled with different types of fruits and vegetables, various livestock, and farm equipment for the community to see the products that the local agricultural industry is showcasing.

Torres said that helping each other would minimize the challenges that every farmer and rancher is facing. "We should continue raising local produce but we have to each other. It would minimize the challenges if we help each other and work together."

"I've always been a firm believer of the produce that we grow. That's why if you have a neighbor who is a farmer and they are having a hard time getting water for their crops, help them," said Torres.

He added that he's been a firm believer of produce that is grown locally. "Take pride of the produce that we grow. Take pride of what you provide to all the hotels and restaurants, and to your families."

Torres said that farming and ranching was part of his growing up years together with his siblings. "We're five boys and we had one sister, farming has been part of our lives growing up. We grew up raising pigs, goats, cows, and ducks. It was our way of life, it was our chores and we enjoy it."

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Hogs raised by local lancherus were on display in last Saturday's 33rd Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair at the Garapan Fishing Base near the Public Market.

Torres added that they continue to raise livestock and farming. "The whole thing here is to appreciate agriculture, our land, and our water. By doing so, we stay away from pesticides, not healthy for us."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang also lauded the efforts done by all farmers and lancherus. "This is an annual event and we're all lucky that everything is going back to normal now. We see now a lot of local fruits and vegetables on display."

"Thank you to all the farmers and ranchers. They are back to their usual job of providing local produce to the community. This is a nice event that not only showcases locally grown vegetables and fruits but also livestock."

Apatang also congratulated the organizing committee for another successful staging of the Agri Fair. "The Saipan Mayor's Office has been one of the strongest supporters of this event. Our support staff had been helping the organizing committee every year."

"Congratulations again to all the members of the organizing community. Let's support local farmers and their produce."

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chairman, and Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) and Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Department of Lands and Natural Resources acting secretary Manny Pangelinan, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's Dean Tim Kock, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for Guam executive director Tom Camacho were also present.

Staff from the Community Guidance Center's Crisis Counseling Program give out free shaved ice treats to everyone who attended the Agricultural Fair.

Two-year-old Amelie Ogumoro enjoys playing inside the tractor.

Saipan and Northern Islands Fair Association and Municipal Council member Reina Camacho, left, was last Saturday's host.

Ornamental plants were also on display in the Agri Fair.

A spectator checks out the local fruits and vegetables.

Two cows get comfortable inside their cage. Bulls, cows, chickens, boars, pigs, and goats were also on display.

Vaniqa Torres pets one of the cows on display at the Agri Fair.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Concealing terrorism

So what's in a name? Sometimes quite a bit, as the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI have quickly learned.

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch gave several interviews last weekend to announce that the Justice Department and the FBI would be releasing a partial transcript of a 911 call from the Orlando gay nightclub shooter, who murdered 49 people and wounded 53 others. "(W)e're trying to get as much information about this investigation out as possible," Lynch told host Chuck Todd of NBC News' "Meet the Press."

But issuing redacted transcripts is hardly getting out as much information as possible. As a result, the shooter's references to the Islamic State and Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi were removed from the transcript.

Amidst a forceful backlash, the Justice Department and FBI quickly reversed course, issuing the full transcript and calling the debate over the redaction "an unnecessary distraction." One of the main statements in question reads, in full: "I pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, may God protect him (in Arabic), on behalf of the Islamic State."

The decision to withhold information was always a curious one, as it was no secret that the gunman had declared his allegiance to the Islamic State and cited U.S. bombing in Iraq and Syria as motivation for the attack.

As always, politics probably played a large role. The feds "tried to rewrite history," Fox News Senior Judicial Analyst Judge Andrew Napolitano said on the "Shepard Smith Reporting" program on Tuesday. "It was plain as day, once they had revealed what was there, what they were trying to do. This fits the president's paradigm that this is a gun control issue rather than an international terrorist issue."

In responding last week to criticisms that he, and his administration, refuse to use the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism," President Barack Obama argued that "Calling a threat by a different name does not make it go away."

True enough, but neither will refusing to call a threat by name "make it go away." If anything, this only sows doubt that the administration is taking the threat seriously, and undermines the U.S. government's credibility more than its efforts to undermine the credibility of the Islamic State. The Justice Department's and FBI's waffling on the 911 transcript does not help matters.

Words have meaning, as a consummate politician like the president of the United States knows well. This administration has repeatedly demonstrated a strong proclivity for trying to hide or spin facts that do not comport with the policy prescriptions it is pushing. Not only is this dangerous from a security standpoint, it is dangerous to a free society. A government that cannot be open and honest with its citizens is a government destined to subjugate its citizens, not serve them.

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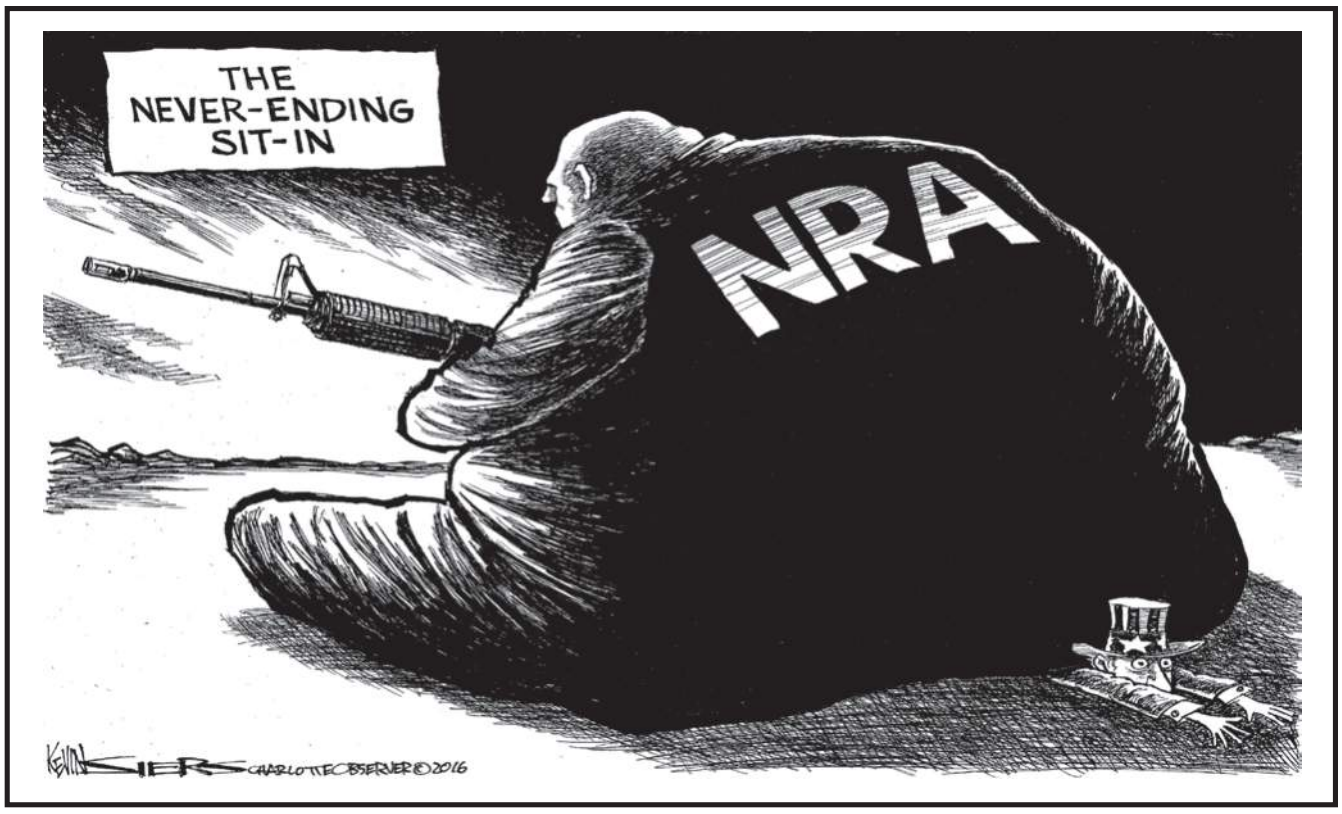

In Pennsylvania, courageous lawmakers recognize abortion for what it is

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Here are some of the things you are not supposed to compare to abortion:

Slavery. That's because slaves were human, and even though the law treated them as property, the truth of their separate and sacred identity was obvious to the naked and uncompromised eye.

The Holocaust. That's because Hitler's victims were human, with infinite gifts that elevated civilization, even though the laws — both expressed and implicit — treated them as lesser beings. Their humanity was evident.

Sharia. That's because women in the Islamic world are human, with unique potential (including the ability to give and nurture life), and even though certain Muslim teachings punish them for the power of their — of our — biology, their value is clear to poets, painters, soldiers, children and God.

You are not supposed to compare abortion to any evil act that enslaves and debases people, even when these acts were once sanctioned by law (and are still sanctioned, in the case of Sharia.) It is too uncomfortable an analogy to say that some laws allow us to ignore the obvious, that humanity exists above and beyond the jurisdiction of men.

That is what Jim Crow did, and the Nuremberg laws, and systems that allow for the stoning of women who disobey their fathers. That is what we fight against with our civil rights crusades of all colors, creeds and canons. We pride ourselves on doing the right thing, and sewing up the tears in the cloth of justice.

Except when it comes to abortion. Then, we delight in the dark magic of the law, which can turn truth into fiction, and clarity into confusion. Before Roe v. Wade, even those women who desperately sought out places to terminate their pregnancies knew in their hearts that the procedure they were hunting would end with at least one death. We talk about back alleys and bloody hangers and shift our sympathy to unwilling mothers, but at least back then there was a visceral understanding that abortion killed a baby. It wasn't a "fetus." It wasn't an "embryo." It wasn't, most offensively, "a mass of cells." It was a future president, scientist, baker, lover, priest, Nobel Prize winner or nondescript taxi driver. It was unwanted, but it had an identity. The women who had those abortions in shame and subterfuge knew what they were doing, even though they went ahead with it for their own reasons.

But Roe v. Wade gave them permission to pretend that they weren't killing anyone, that the thing that they were removing from their wombs was not human at all. The law told us that we could erase the traces of that thing in the same way that the waves cancel out our footprints on the sand and, poof, it would disappear. "It" was not human. Slaves were not human. Jews, women, not human. The laws are powerful things.

Sometimes, though, they can be turned around and used for actual justice. They can undo what has been done in a misguided attempt to placate a loud and politically favored group, and for a brief moment, shame us into looking at the truth. That is what more than 120 Pennsylvania legislators did this week when they passed a House bill that would ban all abortions after the 20th week, with some exceptions for medical emergencies. Most abortions occur well before the fifth month, and the ones that occur in the last trimester are usually performed because of medical emergencies and anomalies. Since the bill would still permit abortions in many of those circumstances, there should be no significant impact from a logistical perspective.

But there is indeed an impact from a moral perspective. The legislators voted to restore some sanity and clarity to the abortion debate. Unlike those who use the ridiculous euphemisms of "reproductive health" and "choice" and "equality," the men and women who voted in favor of the bill were willing to acknowledge that the creature in the womb has its own inherent dignity, something that eight male justices were unable to extinguish in 1973 even though they used the "penumbras" of due process and privacy like a huckster uses shells in a shell game.

Of course, this bill will have a hard time becoming a law. I'm reminded of that cartoon character from 1970s-era series "Schoolhouse Rock," the sad little bill who sits on Capitol Hill waiting to become an actual law. It may have passed overwhelmingly in the House, but it still needs approval in the Senate. Even then, Gov. Tom Wolf has indicated his intention to veto any ban, which makes sense because he owes the abortion rights crowd that put him over the top in the gubernatorial race. Still, given the composition of the Legislature, there's a real possibility that there's enough support for an override.

Even if there isn't, though, something important has happened. People of courage stood up and said "No, we're not going to pretend anymore." The House members who voted in favor of a ban, which would prevent the dismemberment of developing babies, were willing to do what the abolitionists did, what the good silent Germans didn't and what we in the West have had a problem with because we don't want to offend Islam: tell the truth about what is happening to human beings. They have listened to the science, drowned out the rhetoric from the abortion rights activists and focused, narrowly, on a practice that is just one more shameful act of dehumanization.

Baby steps.

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Democrats go too far on guns

By BEN BOYCHUK
The Sacramento Bee

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. He can be contacted at bboychuk@city-journal.org

Once upon a time, Democrats would sit in to press for civil rights. Today, they sit in to take civil rights away.

How else to describe the goal of this week's 24-hour sit-in by House Democrats? They took to the floor Wednesday demanding a vote on gun control legislation in the wake of last week's terrorist attack at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

Gun ownership is a right. Due process of law is a right. The government needs to meet a very high threshold before denying citizens either one.

Rep. John Lewis led the protest, which devolved into screaming matches early Thursday. The Georgia Democrat is an undisputed hero of the civil rights movement. He marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and suffered a fractured skull on "Bloody Sunday" on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. "It took us three times to make it all the way from Selma to Montgomery," Lewis told reporters Thursday. "We have other bridges to cross."

But the Democrats' gun control efforts aren't about justice. It's a campaign to build a bigger, stronger, less accountable police state in the name of "safety" and "common sense."

The Senate on Monday voted down four bills — two Democratic, two Republican — to expand background checks and prevent anyone on the government's dozen or so terror watch lists from purchasing a gun. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California argued her bill would have prevented the Orlando shooter from buying his weapons because he had been on the FBI's list not once but twice.

Trouble is, Omar Mateen wasn't on the list when he bought his guns. The FBI dropped him in 2014 when it decided he was more of a wannabe than a real risk. Unless Feinstein wants to pass legislation to prevent anyone who ever appeared on a watch list from buying a gun, her bill wouldn't have made a difference.

But the bigger problem is the federal watch lists are an opaque mess. By some estimates, more than 1 million people appear on the lists. The government supposedly uses a "reasonable suspicion" standard for adding possible terror suspects. Because the lists are classified, however, official assurances about their reliability are impossible to verify.

But the American Civil Liberties Union—not ordinarily an ally of the National Rifle Association—describes the secret watch list system as "error-prone and unreliable," using "vague and overbroad criteria and secret evidence" or sometimes no evidence at all.

If you happen to be on one of the lists by mistake, it's next to impossible to clear your name. A federal judge in 2014 ruled the government's process for hearing challenges "falls far short of satisfying the requirements of due process" and is "wholly ineffective."

Oh, and get this: You don't have to be a suspected terrorist to end up on the feds' blacklist. The Guardian reports that the National Counterterrorism Center "permits relatives, including children, of watch-listed persons to be included."

This is the system Democrats want to use to stop bad guys from buying guns?

Sen. Chris Murphy, the Connecticut Democrat who led a 15-hour filibuster last week to shame Republicans into allowing an up-or-down vote on Feinstein's bill, said: "Republicans have decided to sell weapons to ISIS."

No, Republicans have decided to make sure people are not denied the right to keep and bear arms without due process of law.

So what would have stopped the Orlando terrorist attack? One Florida gun shop owner could tell something wasn't right with Mateen. He refused to sell the killer a gun and called the FBI. The FBI did nothing.

Maybe instead of sitting around and chanting "no bill, no break," Democrats could work with Republicans to give federal law enforcement the resources it needs to follow up next time.

Why it's still scary to be gay

By RICHARD COMPSON SATER
The Seattle Times

Richard Compson Sater is retired from the U.S. Air Force and has lived in Seattle for nine years with his partner (now spouse). His first novel, "RANK," will be published later this year.

SEATTLE—Another senseless slaughter in the name of religion took place in Orlando two weeks ago. I mourn the victims who were simply out for an evening of dancing and camaraderie with friends old and new. Then the unthinkable happened, again.

In recent years, I've mourned schoolchildren at Sandy Hook, college students at Virginia Tech, moviegoers in Colorado, personnel workers in San Bernardino, Calif., military troops at Fort Hood, Texas, marathoners in Boston. But for me, Orlando is more frightening — not because it's the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, but because of the target.

When I was young, I was afraid of being gay. I suspected it long before I knew there was a word for it or that others felt the same. Homosexuality seemed shameful, even sinful, and of course I confided my doubts to no one. I needed to be sure myself before admitting something I would never be able to take back.

During my adolescence, I learned what people thought about homosexuality from TV, movies, the newspaper, school and church. When I knew for certain that I was gay, I did not celebrate.

In the 1970s, my family lived in east Tennessee, near Knoxville. The schools I attended were geared to the relentlessly average, with no room for nonconformists of any stripe. By seventh grade, I'd learned fear. When the bullies came after me, I never dreamed things could or would get better. I certainly couldn't ask for help from my teachers or my parents.

I dropped out of high school after my junior year with a sigh of relief. I started college instead, grateful for the opportunity to begin again in an environment where no one knew me. I thought I could keep my orientation a secret. I even joined the military in the pre-"don't ask, don't tell" days. What better place to hide? In the box next to the question "Are you a homosexual?" I lied and checked "no." I endured 24 years of innuendo and fag jokes and could not speak up.

I'd reached my mid-30s before working up the courage to tell my parents and sisters. I've lost so many people from my life because they couldn't forget or forgive that one thing about me. I was probably 40 before I learned to be content and embrace being gay.

Other people, however, are not content and do not want me to be.

My partner and I have been together nearly a decade and married the past three years. It's worth celebrating. But one lesson the Air Force taught me is situational awareness: Look around. Be cautious. To the enemy, you are a target. Be careful whom you trust and never become complacent.

As much as I want to believe we live in a changed world, I can't avoid evidence to the contrary. I'm shocked by the rabid hatred that some people still direct toward the gay community. Sometimes, even in our liberal Seattle, my spouse and I are afraid to walk down the street holding hands. In certain company — among strangers, mostly — when I hear a gay slur, I still keep my mouth shut. And hate myself for being a coward.

To some people, I will always be a faggot.

My heart sank when I heard that the victims in Orlando were gay (or gay-friendly) — as surely did the hearts of peaceful Muslims when they learned that the perpetrator was yet another radical, killing in the name of the Islamic State. Will Seattle be next? New York City? San Francisco? Knoxville, which now boasts several gay bars?

This most recent horrific assault reminds me that I will never be able to forget myself entirely. I can't afford to become careless or let down too much guard.

The attack didn't make me afraid. It just reminded me (again) that I've always been afraid. And probably always will be. Must be.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Catholic Church religious organizations

Are they still around? Years ago, there were several Catholic organizations here on Saipan. The League of San Tarcisius, the San Luis, the San Stanislaus, the Holy Name of Jesus Society, the Nina Maria, the Hijas de Maria, and the Christian Mothers. I was a member of the League of San Tarcisius, the martyred acolyte. My cousin, Sister Remedio, MMB, used to see that I was good every day. Each organization had a large Membership. We took care of the church, the kalesa for the procession, and other church activities like decorating the altar, setting up the Nativity scene, the preparation for the Holy Week, etc. And then, there was the church choir under the aegis of choirmaster William S. Reyes (WSR).

Such beautiful songs as Tafan Magof Todos (a combination of the German song Freud Eus des Leben and and except from the "War of 1812," Ave Verum Corpus, Pie Pelecane, Queen of the May, In Nae Hao Maria ni flores gualo siha, an echo of that beautiful song Queen of the May, like "Bring flowers of the fairest, bring flowers of the rarest from gardens, and woodlands and hillsides, and dales," etc. I still see elders who were part of the church organizations. We would reminisce about the church activities we used to do, the songs like the complicated Pie Pelecane, the Ave Maristella, the long procession down Beachroad into Chalan Kanoa and back to the church with the Niña Maria on floats pushed by members of the Holy Name Society, the San Luis, San Estanislao, etc., the high pitch voices of the Hijas de Maria, blending with the singing of the Mt. Carmel Church regular choir and members of the Catholic community. It was the Hijas de Maria who used to crown the representation of the Blessed Virgen Mary with flowers every May. Boy, Catholic Saipan was great then. Fr. Jose Tadio, Bro. Gregorio, Fr. Ferdinand, Fr. Arnold, Fr. Sylvan, Fr. Anthony, Ft. Canice "the Irish jig dancing Red-haired priest," Fr. Tony the martial artist, Fr. Raymond the lecturer, Fr. Lee the boxer and coach of the Mt. Carmel football, basketball, and softball teams, etc., Monsignor Guerrero, and Monsignor Martinez. And then there were the MMBs-the Mercedarian sisters of Berriz, Spain, like Sr. Felicia, Sr. Dolores, Sister Joaquina, and the contingent of Saipanese sisters like Sr. Remedios, Sr. Solidad, etc.

But now, are Catholics shying away from the Church and its religious organizations? Now, I only know of the student organization at Mt. Carmel Catholic School, the Knights, which is a splendid reminiscence of days gone by in Church's activities. I know attendance has dwindled to a handful of evening lisayo participants (Tafan Lisayo Kada haane, sa i Santos Lisayo yaben i langit) and morning mass attendance. Why is that? I do know that Fr. Reyes and Fr. Balajadia are doing their best to revive religious activities. But, Is it pressure from daily living and work and school schedules, and other un-define schedules that Catholics are not seen in Church? I only see the church near full during Mass for Christian burials. Or is there a revival in church attendance and activities that I don't see or am I aware of? Are there still Catholic members belonging to any of the above-church organizations? I remember the Knights of Columbus and the Knights Sylvester. Where are they now? This new student organization "The Knights of Mt. Carmel School" is a good example of a young Catholic organization starting out on the good foot. Who started that splendid student organization? I hope the Knights take good care of the Cathedral since the other Church's organizations seemed to have vanished. Or is the Knight only a social organization? And guess what. My friend, Ft. Ryan Jimenez, is now our bishop. For a long time, I had been teasing him that someday he would be a bishop. I even called him "bishop" in light instances. But now, it's a reality. I don't have to tease him anymore. He is our bishop appointed by his Holiness, Pope Francis. Great day for the Catholic Church here. Congratulations Bishop Ryan.

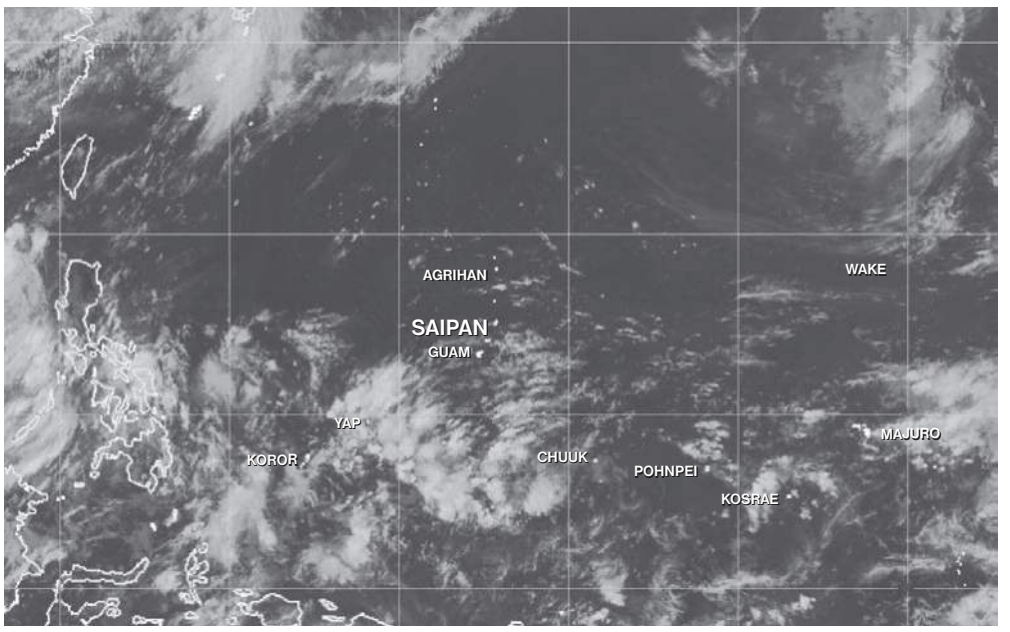
Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼80°	▲90° ▼80°	▲89° ▼78°	▲90° ▼80°	▲90° ▼80°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough is triggering thunderstorms in a cluster well northwest of Yap within 100 miles of 12N131E. A monsoon trough runs east-southeastward from Mindanao across 8n130e to a broad circulation centered southeast of Yap near 4N142E. Convergent winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Yap or within 100 miles of a line from 11N138E to 3N147E and southwest of Koror between 4N and 7N from 130E to 133E. The equatorial trough extends from the circulation eastward through Chuuk and farther east through Kwajalein to near 8N180. Patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms lie south of Guam between 5N and 12N from 146E to 152E. Extensive cloudiness prevails across eastern Micronesia with a few thunderstorms near Kosrae or within 70 miles of a line from 3N161E to 7N164E and between 7N and 13N from 170E to the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Windy and Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼67
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Los Angeles	Clear	▲88	▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
New York	Clear	▲82	▼70
Osaka	Cloudy	▲77	▼70
Paris	Light Rain	▲73	▼54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼66
Salem	Clear	▲87	▼55
San Francisco	Clear	▲73	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼65
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼71

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.62 Feet
1:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1:44 Feet
07:43PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.48 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:11 AM	12:38 AM
Wednesday	12:57 AM	1:35 PM
Thursday	1:45 AM	2:34 PM
Friday	2:36 AM	3:34 PM
Saturday	3:29 AM	4:35 PM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 15, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Bordallo applauds CBP approval of Guam International Airport partnership

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that Guam is among several international ports selected as potential participants for Reimbursable Services Agreements for 2016. The Reimbursable Services Program (RSP) enables partnerships between CBP and private sector or government entities, allowing CBP to provide additional inspection services upon the request of stakeholders. These services can include customs, immigration, agricultural processing, border security, and support at Ports of Entry, and may cover costs such as salaries, benefits, overtime expenses, administration, and transportation costs. The program was authorized by section 559 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014.

In February, CBP accepted over 50 applications from stakeholders associated with ports of entry around the country, and after evaluating the merits based upon factors such as potential impact on current operations, community and economic needs and benefits, and feasibility, selected 29 tentative finalists, including the Guam International Airport. Guam International Airport's selection allows them to enter into negotiations with CBP to discuss the details of how RSP can be implemented in Guam.

"I applaud the decision to potentially include Guam in the Reimbursable Services Program for 2016. While it does not guarantee that Guam will ultimately be considered for the program, it is an important step forward in addressing the lengthy immigration lines that travelers experience at the Guam International Airport," said Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo. "I have called for us to explore creative and long-term solutions to reduce unnecessarily long wait times at the airport, and participating in the reimbursable fee program would contribute to this effort. I applaud the work of Guam International Airport and tourism stakeholders on Guam for applying for this program. I have been supportive of this approach and stand ready to see it implemented so we can find immediate ways to address long immigration lines. Further, I am looking at other ways to address long immigrations lines at the international airport for the long-term. I will continue to communicate the need for flexibility with CBP in their staffing patterns and look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders on Guam to find a more long-term resolution to this issue." ***(PR)***

US Naval Hospital Guam change of command

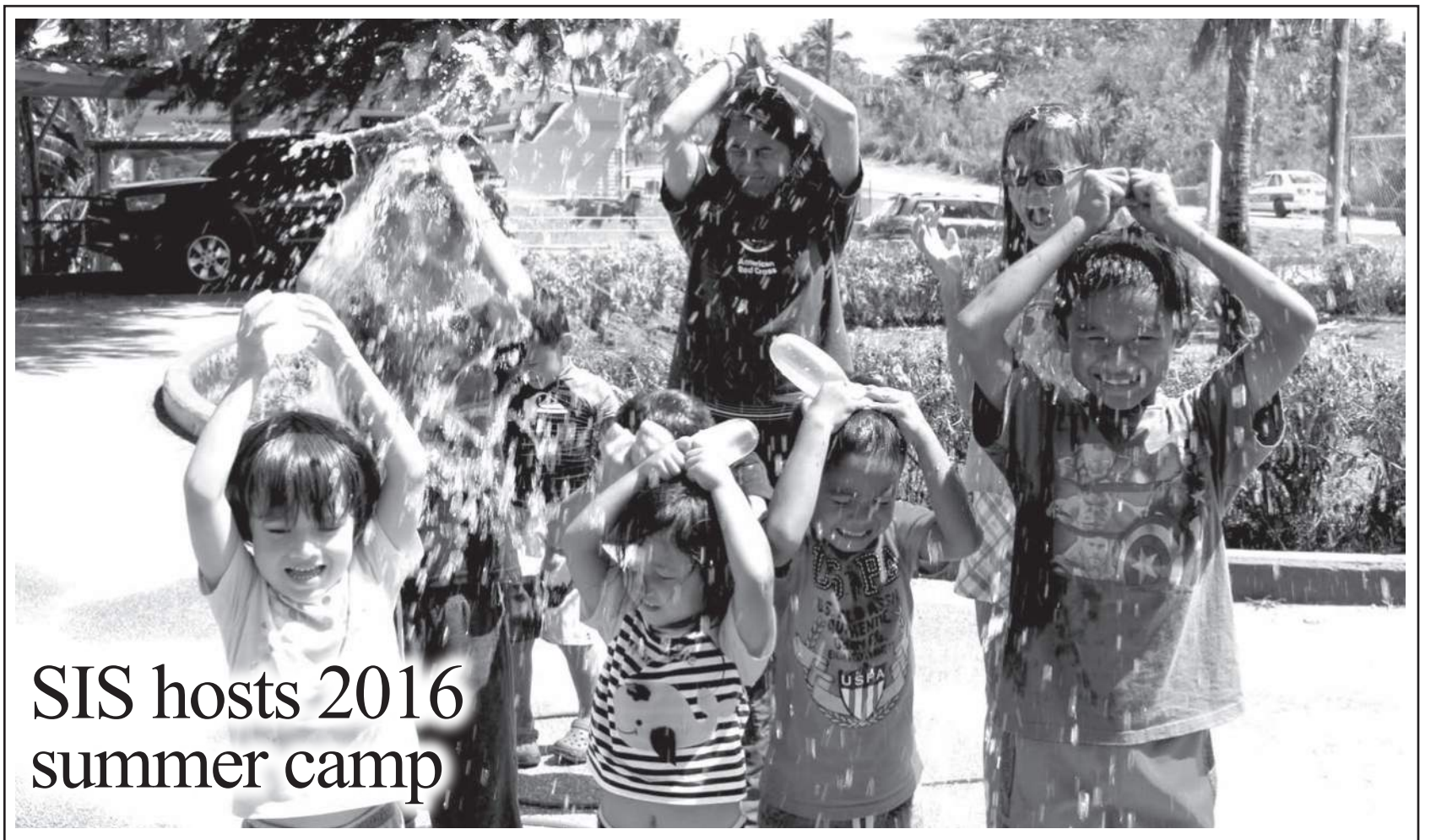
The commanding officer of US Naval Hospital Guam (USNH Guam), Captain Jeannie Comlish, is scheduled to relinquish command to Captain Dan Cornwell in a change of command ceremony schedule to take place in the atrium of USNH Guam on June 30th at 10am.

Captain Comlish took command of USNH Guam on June 27, 2014. Under her command, USNH Guam achieved the highest operational dental readiness in Navy Medicine. She directed the medical development plan for Guam's Marine Corps' buildup to include design and services input for two new medical clinics. Her leadership and collaboration with Guam Medical Hospital Authority and Guam Regional Medical City throughout her tour as commanding officer resulted in the creation of the Guam Healthcare Coalition. Captain Comlish is scheduled to report to Defense Health Agency in Washington, D.C. next month.

Captain Dan Cornwell will become the commanding officer of USNH Guam after serving as the commanding officer of Field Medical Training Battalion-West, Camp Pendleton, CA. Prior to Camp Pendleton, Captain Cornwell was the Executive Officer at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii.

Any media interested in attending must RSVP with the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Public Affairs Office by June 29 at noon. Please RSVP by email at brayton.r.metzger.civ@mail.mil or phone at 671-344-9526/788-8008. A public affairs representative will meet all media organizations at 9 a.m. at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam main gate parking lot.

For additional information, please call the USNH Guam Public Affairs Office at 671-344-9526/788-8008. ***(PR)***



SIS hosts 2016 summer camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Participants of Saipan International School's 2016 summer camp cool themselves by popping balloons filled by water.

Summer is the time for play. At Saipan International School we recognize the importance of providing a place for children to develop their social skills. We are dedicated in showing kids how to enjoy others' company, learn from each other, and make friends from all over the world. Each week of our summer camp highlights a different theme: Shades of Summer, Nature's Art Box, Wacky and Wonderful, and Party in the USA.

During the first week of summer camp, Kathy Ruszala, camp counselor and certified teacher, facilitated team-building activities such as bubble relays, treasure hunt, and water balloon Olympics. Children from 5 through 11 were also encouraged to help prepare their own snacks and create projects such as a hide out tent and bubble art. On Fridays, the campers go on a field trip followed by a day at the pool. SIS Summer Camp started on June 13 and will end on July 9.

Come join the fun! For information, contact SIS at 288-9660 or www.sissaipan.net or Facebook: Saipan International School-MP, 96950. ***(PR)***

A couple of SIS summer camp participants have fun in the swimming pool.

SIS 2016 summer camp participants pose under a tree.

Summer camp participants play with hula-hoops.

Summer camp participants take part in arts and crafts.

Business

London's global financial hub wary of more isolated future

LONDON (AP)—In the streets of the City of London, the heart of Britain's global financial hub, it's difficult to find someone who voted to leave the European Union.

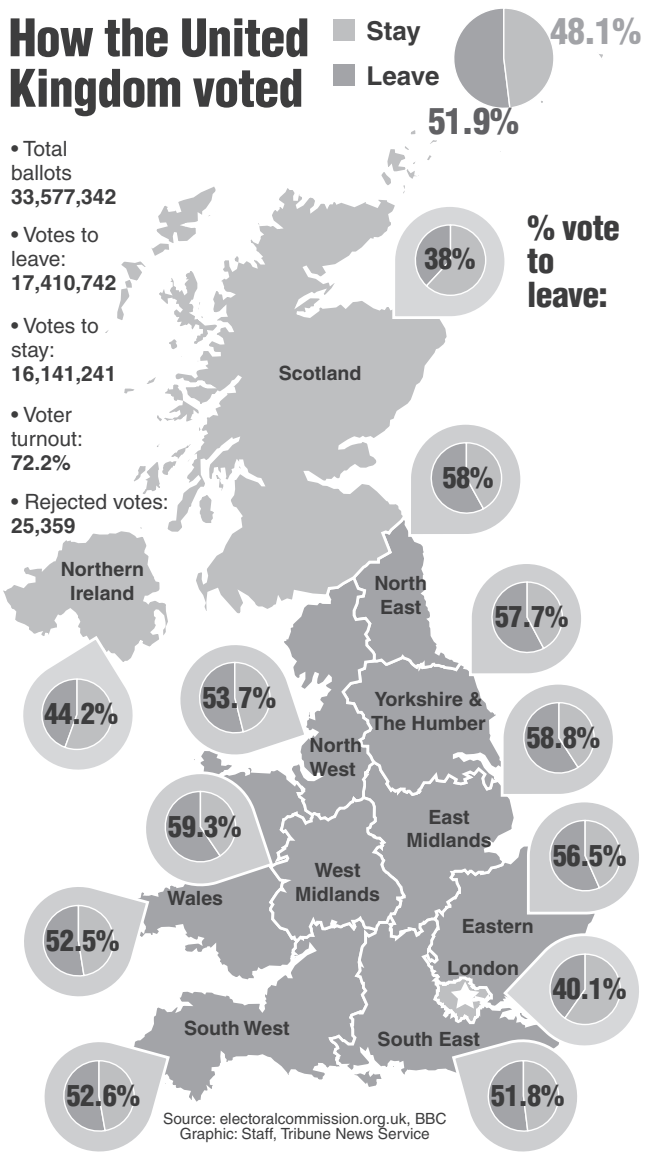
The financial industry has for decades grown—and grown rich—from being the gateway to the EU for banks, brokerages and fund managers from around the world. That has helped it become one of the few truly global financial centers in the world, rivalled perhaps only by New York.

Losing that access could mean thousands of jobs are moved away in coming months and, in the longer-run, a steady decline.

"Brexit will result in years of uncertainty," Jamie Dimon, chief executive of U.S. banking giant JPMorgan Chase, had warned before the vote, using the moniker for a British exit from the EU. The CEO of bank HSBC, Stuart Gulliver, had said as early as February that 1,000 jobs would have to move to Paris to better serve clients on the mainland. Executives like him will be meeting with their management teams and boards in the days to come to assess their businesses' options.

At the heart of the matter is a principle called "passporting," which currently allows any firm registered in one EU country to operate in any other member state without facing another layer of regulation. It's the same principle that allows exporters to ship their goods to any EU country free of tariffs. Losing that freedom is a particular concern for the many foreign firms who use London not only as a financial hub but as an entry point into the EU.

Some 60 percent of all European headquarters of non-EU firms are based in the U.K., according to TheCityUK, which lobbies on behalf of the financial industry. The U.K. hosts more headquarters of non-EU firms than Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands put together.



"I can treat a customer in France or Germany or Italy exactly the same way I can treat a customer in Birmingham. That is extremely rare," said Phillip Souta, head of U.K. public policy at the global law firm of Clifford Chance.

Meanwhile, trillions in securities denominated in euros—such as short-term funding in euros for banks as well as more complex financial products—are traded in London, even though it is not part of the euro, the EU's official currency so far adopted by 19 of the 28 members. As part of the EU, there have been no tariffs on trades and money flows from eurozone countries. That could change with Britain's exit from the EU. The European Central Bank has reportedly been interested in bringing that trading to Frankfurt, Germany, where it is based and regulates banking for the eurozone.

While the U.K. could probably negotiate a new arrangement for trade in goods, it would be much more complicated to hammer out a deal on services, Angus Armstrong, chief of macroeconomics at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has said. The situation has no precedent—no country the size of the U.K. has ever left such an integrated economic union, which with its 500 million people is the world's biggest economic bloc. So the outcome of any talks can't be predicted.

"Services are much more difficult," Armstrong said. "That's where it comes down to regulations and agreements. That's how people discriminate and protect their markets."

London has several structural advantages that would make it hard to leave.

In addition to having a trusted legal system and institutions that operate in English, the language of international finance, London is in the right time zone to access most of the Earth during its working day and has a reputation for delivering top-notch financial services. The industry is surrounded by an ecosystem of expertise—lawyers, accountants and consultants—to support it.

It also tends to have less red tape and lower taxes than countries like France, where the city of Paris has already said it would like to attract business away from London. And it is simply larger and more multinational than Frankfurt, Germany, which serves as the financial hub for Germany and hosts the eurozone's central bank.

London's financial sector has complained about a number of EU rules, such as limits on bankers' bonuses and an attempt to impose a tax on financial transactions.

Megan Greene, chief economist at Manulife Asset Management, says the impact on London's financial hub will depend on what new trade relationship Britain sets up with the remaining 27 EU countries.

The best case scenario would be a relationship like that of non-EU member Norway, where the country and the financial sector retain complete access to the EU market. But that is unlikely as Britain would also have to accept EU rules and allow entry to EU migrants, something the winning campaign for the "leave" vote had been adamantly against.

It's more likely, Greene says, that Britain will use the model of Turkey or Switzerland, which would limit access to the rest of the bloc.

"This means that financial services firms will probably shift their headquarters to an EU country so they have access to the EU," she said.

And anything that curtails Britain's financial industry has implications for the U.K. economy as a whole, not just the bankers who were pilloried for taking home million-pound bonuses while they fueled the global financial crisis.

TheCityUK notes that the sector supports the economy by providing financing for businesses, overseeing retirement savings, providing mortgages and making insurance payments. Related professional services include legal, accounting and management consulting firms.

The financial sector accounts for 11.8 percent of economic output and employs 2.2 million people, or 7 percent of the nation's workforce, according to TheCityUK.

Heading out of town: Independence Day travel to break record

NEW YORK (AP)—It's going to be a busy holiday weekend on the nation's highways.

A record 43 million Americans are expected to travel this Independence Day weekend, with the overwhelming majority driving, according to AAA, a car lobbying group and one of the nation's largest travel agencies. This tops the joint record set last year and in 2007.

Lower gas prices, strong consumer confidence and a generally healthy domestic economy have led more families to take trips this summer.

AAA estimates that U.S. drivers have saved $20 billion on gasoline so far this year compared to the same period last year. Gas prices as of June 20 were 46 cents per gallon below prices from a year ago.

"We are well on our way for 2016 to be a record-breaking year for summertime travel," said AAA President and CEO Marshall Doney.

Ahead of last year's holiday, AAA predicted that 41.9 million people would travel 50 miles or more from home during the weekend. AAA has since revised that number to say that 42.3 million people actually traveled. This year's estimate - the highest since AAA started tracking in 2001 - is for 42.9 million travelers with 84 percent of them driving.

The holiday travel period is defined as Thursday, June 30 to Monday, July 4.

The number of travelers is estimated to be 10.7 percent higher than the average number during the past 15 years.

What to do about womanizing boss?

Q: The owner of our small business appears to be having an affair. "Barry's" office is about 10 feet from my desk, and the door is always open, so I hear everything he says. For the past month, Barry has been having highly suggestive phone conversations with a woman whom he apparently sees in the evenings or on weekends.

To make matters worse, Barry's wife works here, although she's located on the other side of the building. If she happens to walk by during one of these calls, he immediately hangs up. Barry knows I can hear him, so he obviously expects me to keep this information secret. This seems very unfair because I regularly work with his wife.

I should also mention that Barry is extremely condescending and often makes sexist remarks, even though all 10 of our employees are female. Although I'm sick of Barry's behavior, I don't want to quit because I love my job and my co-workers. I'm feeling very powerless and unsure about what to do.

A: Anyone who broadcasts an adulterous relationship with his wife nearby is either a complete idiot or hoping to get caught. But regardless of Barry's motivations, becoming involved in his marital issues would be a recipe for disaster, so your best bet is to continue ignoring these indiscretions.

As for Barry's other offenses, you could attempt to have a calm, professional talk about how his condescending and demeaning language is affecting the staff. However, given that he seems neither mature nor reasonable, that would probably be a fruitless effort which could put your own job at risk.

Your sense of powerlessness is shared by many employees of small, privately owned companies, because under those circumstances, the owner has almost complete control. Realistically, therefore, you will ultimately have to decide whether the benefits of this job outweigh the fact that your boss is an insensitive jerk.

Q: As the manager of a newly formed team, I am concerned about my most senior team member. "Stephanie" also applied for the manager position, but I was chosen instead. I have avoided meeting with her one-on-one because I don't believe I owe her an explanation for my promotion. Now I'm afraid Stephanie may be trying to undermine my authority and turn the team against me. How should I handle this?

A: Avoiding Stephanie because you "don't owe her an explanation" was an error in judgment. While you shouldn't be expected to justify your promotion, an initial conversation to learn about her background and her interests might have gotten the relationship off to a better start and prevented a power struggle.

However, there may still be time to turn things around. Instead of treating Stephanie like a problem, engage her in a collaborative discussion about how the two of you can work together to make this new team a success. Once you stop viewing this as an adversarial relationship, you might find that Stephanie can be a valuable ally.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Nation

More storms on tap for flood-ravaged West Virginia

ANSTED, W.Va. (AP)—As West Virginians continued surveying damage in a state so devastated by floods that one said her community "smelled like death," residents braced for the prospect of more rain.

The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for at least 25 West Virginia counties on Monday. Heavy rains were possible in many areas already ravaged by last week's floods that have killed 24 people statewide.

The forecast also includes hardest-hit Greenbrier County, where 16 people have died and floodwaters have yet to recede.

Dozens of residents of flooded-out Rainelle remained Sunday at a shelter more than 25 miles away at the Ansted Baptist Church, where singing from inside mixed with the bustle of activity outside.

The church's gymnasium has been converted to a shelter. The church also is a drop-off point for donated goods as well as a makeshift kennel for dog owners.

For now, it's home for Jerry Reynolds, his wife, Janice, and his brother, Marcus Reynolds.

AP

Taylor Self of Charleston lays pictures out to dry as she takes a break from cleaning Sherry and Kelly Cole's house, who are her best friend's parents, in Clendenin, W.Va., on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

Janice Reynolds said she drove back to Rainelle on Saturday to survey the damage. She said her home was destroyed, a vehicle was lost in the floodwaters and the community "smelled like death."

Jerry Reynolds says the flood was "the worst thing I've ever seen." But as he sat in his car at the shelter, he declared that "we're survivors. We'll make it."

Marcus Reynolds even found a bit of humor amid the sorrow.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

"While we're at it, would you be interested in any oceanfront property?" he said. "I understand there's some available."

Bill Kious of Rainelle was asked how those at the shelter, many of them on modest incomes, were able to laugh.

"Frankly, because we've lived a rough lifestyle," Kious said. "It's a nature to us that we can't get rid of."

Rick Lewis of the Nuttall Fire Department said 129 people were staying Sunday at the church gymnasium. Many more Rainelle residents were sent to other shelters, he said.

Among those taking advantage of the shelter's kennel was T.J. Parker of Rainelle and his pet Titan.

Parker said he and Titan had to swim four blocks to safety. Along the way, he stopped to rescue an elderly man calling for help and brought him through floodwaters to a fire department. Parker said he had to go under water and hold his breath to support the man, then come up for air.

"I realize that sounds crazy, but you have to do what you have to do at that time," Parker said.

Volunteer Randy Halsey said the donated items at the church were heading specifically to Rainelle. He said it was difficult to estimate how many items had been donated because "as soon as it comes in, it's going right back out."

Rainbow flags, images of shooting victims at pride parades

NEW YORK (AP)—Rainbow flags were held high along with portraits of the dead as thousands of people marched Sunday in gay pride parades tempered by this month's massacre at a Florida gay nightclub.

Crowds of onlookers stood a dozen deep along Fifth Avenue for New York City's parade. Some spectators held up orange "We are Orlando" signs, and indications of increased security were everywhere, with armed officers standing by. An announcer introducing state officials and guests also shouted out, "Love is love! New York is Orlando!" in memory of the 49 people killed in Florida. Elected officials turned out in force, as did presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

She walked several blocks of the march, joining New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Rev. Al Sharpton for a brief appearance at Stonewall Inn, the bar where a 1969 police raid helped catalyze the gay rights movement.

On Sunday, with her Twitter handle appearing in rainbow colors, Clinton wrote: "One year ago, love triumphed in our highest court. Yet LGBT Americans still face too many barriers. Let's keep marching until they don't. -H"

Authorities had expected a larger-than-usual crowd, and 15-year-old Chelsea Restrepo, of Staten Island, was among the onlookers. She had brushed aside her father's concerns about security to attend the march for the first time.

"What happened in Orlando made me want to come more," said Restrepo, swathed in a multicolored scarf. She said she wanted to show her support.

Kenny Hillman, a 39-year-old Brooklyn filmmaker, was ready to roar his Triumph Bonneville down Fifth Avenue.

The transgender New Yorker said he hadn't planned to come to the march.

"For me, I wasn't going to ride because I have 17-month-old twins at home. But then Orlando happened, and seeing so many of my friends shrink in fear made me realize that coming here was more important," said Hillman, wearing an anti-assault guns T-shirt.

New York's parade was one of several being held Sunday across the country, along with San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Louis. They came two weeks after the nation's deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

10 stabbed, beaten at white nationalist rally in California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ten people suffered stab wounds and other injuries on Sunday after members of a white nationalist group that planned to rally outside the California state Capitol building in Sacramento clashed with a larger group of counter protesters, authorities said.

The fight broke out when about 30 members of the Traditionalist Worker Party gathering to rally around noon Sunday were met by about 400 counter-protesters, California Highway Patrol Officer George Granada said.

As people tried to leave the area, smaller fights broke out, Granada said.

Of the injured, two were taken to the hospital with critical stab wounds, but they were expected to survive, officials said.

Police were investigating two assaults that happened outside the Capitol grounds, but no arrests have been made, the Sacramento Police Department said in a statement.

The Capitol was on lockdown until protesters cleared the area.

Videos from the melee posted on social media showed mounted police officers dispersing a group of mostly young people, some with their faces covered, while some throw stones toward a man holding a stick and being shielded by police officers in riot gear.

A KCRA-TV reporter and his cameraman were caught in an altercation with protesters who shouted "no cameras" as they tried to grab their equipment and shove them away from the crowd.

Sacramento Fire Department spokesman Chris Harvey said nine men and one woman, ranging from 19 to 58 years old, were treated for stab wounds, cuts, scrapes and bruises.

"There was a large number of people carrying sticks and rushing to either get into the melee or see what was going on," Harvey said.

The victims were all present while the protest took place, said Sacramento Police spokesman Matt McPhail but he said it was still unclear whether and how they were involved.

The Traditionalist Workers Party had scheduled and received a permit to protest for two hours in front of the Capitol. Law enforcement was aware of the counter-protest effort and police deployed more than 100 officers to the Capitol, McPhail said.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has described TWP as a group formed in 2015 as the political wing of the Traditionalist Youth Network, which aims to "indoctrinate high school and college students into white nationalism."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Man fatally shoots girlfriend with crossbow

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police say they've arrested a man who fatally shot his girlfriend with a crossbow in Philadelphia. The 42-year-old woman was shot once in the chest Sunday night. She later died at a hospital. Officers have arrested a 40-year-old man who they say was her boyfriend. WCAU-TV reports police say they had been called to the home in the past for domestic incidents. They have not identified the victim or the suspect. No further details were immediately available.

Wounded Pennsylvania officer to be released from hospital

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A police officer who was shot seven times as he was conducting a drug investigation is set to be released from a Philadelphia hospital. Folcroft police say Officer Christopher Dorman likely will be released Monday. The 25-year-old officer was shot Friday as he approached people suspected of smoking marijuana behind an apartment building. The shooting prompted a three-hour manhunt. The suspect, Donte Island, has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Fake monks? Buddhist leaders warn NYC tourists to be wary

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Buddhist leaders are sounding the alarm to tourists: Beware the "fake monks." Men in orange robes claiming to be Buddhist monks are approaching visitors to some of the city's most popular attractions, handing them shiny medallions and offering greetings of peace. They then hit them up for donations to help them build a temple in Thailand, and are persistent if their demands are refused. "The problem seems to be increasing," said the Rev. TK Nakagaki, president of the Buddhist Council of New York, a group that represents nearly two dozen Buddhist temples. "They are very aggressive and hostile if you don't give them money." His group has taken to the streets and social media to warn people that the men appear to have no affiliation to any Buddhist temple. "Please be aware," read one Facebook post, "this is a scam."

Asia

Premier says China wants 'united and stable' EU

BEIJING (AP)—China's premier called Monday for joint efforts to restore global economic confidence following the shock of Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

Last week's referendum "has had an obvious impact on international financial markets. We are seeing increasing uncertainties in the world economy," said Li Keqiang, speaking at the World Economic Forum in the eastern city of Tianjin.

The unusually direct comments by China's top economic official, who rarely discusses foreign political affairs, reflected the scale of official concern about the impact from turmoil in the 28-nation European Union, the country's top trading partner. Any weakening of European demand could hurt export industries that employ millions of workers.

"Under such circumstances, we need to jointly handle challenges, strengthen confidence and create a stable international environment," the premier told an audience of Chinese and foreign businesspeople. He gave no details of possible joint initiatives.

AP

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, left, answers a question as founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab listens during the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, China Monday, June 27, 2016.

Li said Beijing wants to see a "united and stable" European Union and a "stable and prosperous" United Kingdom - a possible reference to concern the vote might inspire separatist sentiment in other EU nations or portions of Britain.

Chinese leaders had taken the unusual step of publicly urging Britons to stay in the EU ahead of the vote.

During a visit by President Xi Jinping to London in October, the Chinese foreign ministry issued a statement that called Britain "an important member of the EU" and expressed hope it would play a role in promoting Chinese-EU ties.

The ruling Communist Party is in the midst of a marathon effort to reduce reliance on exports and nurture more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption. But those plans call for holding exports steady to protect employment.

China also is a big and growing investor in Britain. Chinese companies have acquired the makers of MG autos, London taxi cabs and Weetabix breakfast cereal. Its sovereign wealth fund owns a stake in London's Heathrow Airport.

London is the second-largest center outside mainland China for settling transactions in the Chinese currency, the yuan.

"It is impossible for us to talk about our own development with no regard for the international economic environment," said Li. "Therefore we need to work together to make progress through joint efforts."

Economists have suggested some Chinese companies might rethink plans to make Britain a European base or shift transactions to economies that remain in the EU. But they say the direct economic impact on China should be modest.

A more serious problem for Beijing is turmoil in currency markets that is putting downward pressure on China's yuan, economists said.

The People's Bank of China spent tens of billions of dollars in 2015 to defend its state-set exchange rate after a change in the mechanism for deciding that rate fueled expectations Beijing was trying to depress its value. That led investors to move capital out of China.

The dollar has strengthened against the euro and the British pound, and if the People's Bank allows it to gain against the Chinese currency, "this could set off a renewed bout of fears over renminbi depreciation and a pick-up in capital outflows," said Julian Evans-Pritchard and Mark Williams of Capital Economics in a report.

Freed hostage: Militants rejoiced as Canadians were beheaded

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf extremists rejoiced as they watched two Canadians being beheaded in the jungles of the southern Philippines, said a still-shocked Filipino hostage who was freed Friday.

Marites Flor tearfully recalled to reporters the moments when Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall were handcuffed and led away to a nearby jungle clearing to be separately decapitated in April and early this month by the ransom-seeking militants.

She said that Hall, who was killed last week, was her fiance. Ridsdel was beheaded by the militants in April.

"It's so painful because I saw them moments before they got beheaded," Flor told reporters in southern Davao city, where she was flown to meet President-elect Rodrigo Duterte after her release in nearby Sulu province.

"They were watching it and they were happy," she said of the militants, adding that she did not witness the killings.

Flor said she was slapped and threatened and her fellow hostages were beaten when the militants disliked what they were doing. "They told me, 'Robert's head has been chopped off. You're next,'" she said. "They treated us like dogs, like children."

Flor was abducted with Hall, Ridsdel and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad from a resort on southern Samal island in September last year and taken to the jungles of the predominantly Muslim island province of Sulu. The militants killed the two Canadians after ransom deadlines lapsed.

The captives were among some two dozen people held by the Abu Sayyaf this year.

On Friday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said seven Indonesians were abducted by armed men who raided their tugboat and taken to Sulu, in a third such recent attack. Six others were released with the vessel, she said.

Duterte said he was told that Sekkingstad may already be on the way out of captivity, but did not provide details and appeared unsure of his statement. He later went into a meeting with the Norwegian ambassador.

Duterte cut short his speech in a nationally televised police ceremony when officials arrived and brought the 38-year-old Flor, who appeared still distraught, to the stage. Duterte tried to console her and quietly asked a few questions.

Shortly before facing Flor, Duterte asked the Abu Sayyaf militants to stop ransom kidnappings, which he said have given the country "a very bad image." He warned people against joining the Abu Sayyaf, suggesting a major offensive was forthcoming.

"There will be, I said, a reckoning one of these days," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Singapore Airlines jet catches fire, but all passengers safe

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore Airlines said Monday that there were no injuries when a jetliner caught fire after the plane returned to Changi Airport because of an engine warning. An airline statement said the Boeing 777-300ER was on its way to Milan when it turned back "following an engine oil warning message." It said the aircraft's right engine caught fire after Flight SQ368 touched down more than four hours after takeoff. "The fire was put out by airport emergency services and there were no injuries to the 222 passengers and 19 crew on board," it said. The airline says the passengers were transferred to another aircraft that was to depart for Milan later Monday.

Strong earthquake hits Kyrgyzstan, no injuries reported

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—A strong earthquake has hit southern Kyrgyzstan, but emergency officials say there are no immediate reports of any damage or injuries in the remote corner of the Central Asian nation. The emergency situations ministry says the earthquake that struck at 5:17 p.m. (1117 GMT) on Sunday had a magnitude of 6.7 at its center and registered a magnitude of 4 in Osh, the nearest city. The U.S. Geological Survey gave a preliminary magnitude of 6.3. An earthquake with a magnitude over 6 is capable of causing severe damage.

Malaysian woman dies after airbag ruptures in accident

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian woman has died after the airbag in her Honda City ruptured in a minor collision, a safety official said Monday. The incident Sunday came days after Honda Malaysia announced an additional recall of more than 145,000 vehicles to replace defective front passenger airbag inflators. Fire and rescue official Rosdi Hainan said the steering-wheel airbag had ruptured when he arrived at the site of the accident, and the victim was bleeding from her chest. Rosdi said the woman died a short time later. Honda officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

PM urges Australians to choose stability after Brexit vote

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister used his official campaign launch on Sunday to warn against a change of government during the economic fallout from Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

Polls project Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative coalition is widely expected to be returned next Saturday for a second three-year term with a reduced majority.

Turnbull said his government was better placed to strike vital new trade deals with the EU and Britain after the separation forced by a British referendum.

Australia had brokered free trade deals with major trade partners China, Japan and South Korea and renegotiated a pact with Singapore during the government's first term, he said.

"The shockwaves of the past 48 hours from Britain's vote to leave the European Union are a sharp reminder of the volatility in the global economy. Always expect the unexpected," Turnbull said.

"Our clear economic plan is more essential than ever as we enter this period of uncertainty in global markets following the British vote to leave the European Union," he added.

Australia's only two surviving conservative prime ministers—John Howard and Tony Abbott—had front row seats at the campaign launch.

Howard is Australia's second longest serving prime minister, lasting almost 12 years before his government was defeated at 2007 elections. Abbott lasted only two years before he was overthrown by Turnbull in an internal government showdown in September.

Turnbull became the fifth prime minister since Howard in an extraordinarily volatile period of Australian politics.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said the government was divided between Turnbull's supporters and those who support Abbott.

"Mr. Turnbull says this is the time for stability. You cannot have stability without unity," Shorten said.

An opinion poll published in Sydney's The Sunday Telegraph newspaper found the government and the center-left Labor Party opposition running neck and neck with each supported by 50 percent of respondents. The newspaper did not publish a sample size or margin of error. But such Galaxy Research polls are usually nationwide with margins of error smaller than 3 percentage points.

World

British expatriates fear for their future after UK vote

BENIDORM, Spain (AP)—Tad Dawson's pub in this Spanish vacation town was doing a brisk business in the summer sun. The only dark clouds he saw were coming from the bar's TV, tuned to a British news channel.

Inside the Yorkshire Pride were many British tourists watching the screen as their prime minister announced his resignation Friday after the U.K. voted to leave the European Union.

Dawson, a 51-year-old Englishman who has lived in Spain since the 1990s, admits the decoupling of Britain from the EU other 27 member nations has him spooked.

His future is suddenly uncertain.

"We're very scared because I've been here 23 years. I've got my house, my kids were born here, they went to a British-Spanish school, I've got a bar, I've got a lot to lose," Dawson said at his pub, which was decked out with the red-and-white English flags featuring the St. George's Cross.

AP

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn leaves his house in London, Sunday June 26, 2016.

EU leaders are due soon to begin unprecedented—and knotty—negotiations on how to extricate the U.K. from the bloc. Crucially for British expatriates, EU laws stipulate that the bloc's citizens have the same rights as those nationals in any other member nation.

Nobody is saying what the rights of Britons living in the EU might be in a future outside the bloc. Dawson worries about losing his entitlements in Spain, which is part of the EU.

"We don't know how we're going to be now," he said. "We might have no pension. We might have no medical. We may have to sell our properties. We've lived here for a lot of years. We don't know how it's going to affect us anymore."

An estimated 1.2 million Britons live in other EU countries, many of them in France, Spain and Portugal, according to Britain's House of Commons library. But analysts reckon the true number could be at least double that—and maybe a lot more, because many don't bother registering with their embassies or the local authorities.

Raquel Martins, an immigration lawyer at the Lisbon, Portugal, law firm of SRS Advogados, said the United Kingdom and the EU would now enter many months of negotiations to try to secure a reciprocity agreement that establishes legal guarantees for their citizens who live abroad.

"Nothing will happen right now. Nobody is going to be sent home," she said. "What would make sense in my eyes is for there to be some kind of give-and-take and an agreement on reciprocal safeguards."

Across Europe, British expats reacted with alarm, dismay and sadness after Thursday's referendum on Britain's EU exit, also known as Brexit.

"I am in a state of shock," said Patrick Lamb, a standup comedian who has lived in Austria for 17 years. "I am also concerned by what Brexit means for the longer-term future. The world seems very unstable."

In Berlin, Dale Carr from Sheffield in northern England said she would request German nationality. She said she, her Scottish husband and her two British-passport holding children would apply for German citizenship to keep their EU entitlements.

"Otherwise, we have no rights. What am I to do with this British passport?" asked the 63-year-old who moved to Germany in 1978 and runs two British goods shops called Broken English.

For Trump and Brexit voters, echoes of the same frustrations

MAYBOLE, Scotland (AP)—At the heart of the campaign that led Britain to vote to leave the European Union was a desire to regain independence lost amid a globalized world. It's the same kind of feeling that Donald Trump rode to become the presumptive Republican nominee in the U.S., where he campaigns to put "America first" and "make America great again."

"I love to see people take their country back. And that's really what's happening in the United States," Trump told reporters this weekend during a visit to his golf resort in western Scotland.

The anxiety that drove the stunning "Brexit" decision has been brewing for at least a decade in the United Kingdom, as waves of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe arrived as the global economy plunged into recession. In the years since, right-leaning leaders have stoked populist concerns about their impact on wages, as well as fears about the loss of ethnic identity, which runs deep in parts of largely white rural England and Wales.

"There's a real feeling things have changed and they've changed too fast," said Muriel MacGregor, filling up her car at a BP station on her way to work as a clerk at a hotel in Aberdeen, Scotland.

MacGregor, 52, said that, unlike many of her friends, she proudly voted for "leave." ''This isn't the country I remember from growing up. I don't know exactly what happens next. I don't think anybody does. But I really feel like we needed something different, because this isn't working," she said.

Britain's vote shattered the stability of continental unity forged after World War II and sent markets across the globe tumbling.

Presumed Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton said on Sunday the vote was a sobering reminder that "what happens around the world has consequences that can hit home quickly."

"Our priority now must be to protect American families and businesses from the negative effects of this kind of tumult and uncertainty," Clinton said at the annual gathering of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Indianapolis.

She also took a thinly veiled dig at Trump saying "steady experienced leadership" is what the U.S. needs to avoid the kinds of troubles Britain now faces.

Fallujah fully liberated from IS group, Iraqi commander says

BAGHDAD (AP)—Five weeks after a military operation began, a senior Iraqi commander declared Sunday that the city of Fallujah was "fully liberated" from the Islamic State group, giving a major boost to the country's security and political leadership in its fight against the extremists.

Recapturing Fallujah, the first city to fall to the Islamic State group more than two years ago, means that authorities can now set their sights on militant-held Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, visiting central Fallujah with the celebrating troops, vowed that the Iraqi flag would next be raised above Mosul. But that campaign has been progressing in fits and starts, revealing the deep divisions among the different groups that make up the security forces.

Iraqi troops entered Fallujah's northwestern neighborhood of al-Julan, the last part of the city under IS control, said Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, head of the counterterrorism forces in the operation.

The operation, which began May 22, "is done, and the city is fully liberated," al-Saadi told The Associated Press.

Al-Abadi, dressed in the black fatigues of the counterterrorism forces and carrying an Iraqi flag, visited Fallujah's central hospital Sunday evening and called for residents of the city 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad to celebrate the military advance.

But tens of thousands of people from Fallujah who were forced to flee their homes during the operation are still at overcrowded camps for the displaced with limited shelter in the Anbar desert. The U.S.-led coalition said it was still conducting airstrikes in the area, and aid groups warned it was too early to say when residents could return to their homes in the city, citing the presence of makeshift bombs left behind by the militants.

The Fallujah operation was carried out by Iraq's elite counterterrorism troops, Iraqi federal police, Anbar provincial police and an umbrella group of government- sanctioned militia fighters—mostly Shiites—who are known as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

Fallujah, a predominantly Sunni city, was a stronghold of insurgents following the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. More than 100 American soldiers died and hundreds more were wounded in intense, house-by-house fighting there in 2004.

Israeli official: Reconciliation deal reached with Turkey

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel has reached a reconciliation deal with Turkey to end a bitter six-year rift between the Mideast powers, an official said Sunday.

Relations between the former close allies imploded in 2010 following an Israeli naval raid that killed nine Turkish activists, including a dual American citizen, who were on a ship trying to breach Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Following the incident, Turkey withdrew its ambassador to Israel and greatly scaled back military and economy ties. But relations were never broken completely.

Turkey's move toward rapprochement with Israel comes amid its deepening isolation in the region following a breakdown of ties with Russia and Egypt as well as the turmoil in neighboring Syria.

The Israeli official confirmed the details of the agreement on Sunday. He spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on an official visit to Rome, is expected to announce details on Monday, and the two sides plan to sign the agreement on Tuesday. Turkey's new prime minister, Binali Yildirim, was also scheduled to make an announcement in Ankara.

Netanyahu also called Vice President Joe Biden to thank him for encouraging the normalization talks with Turkey, according to a statement released by Biden's office. It said Biden congratulated Netanyahu "for progress toward reconciliation with Turkey, noting the significant positive security and economic benefits for both countries and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region."

The Israeli official said the impending deal would include $20 million in Israeli compensation for families of those killed in the raid, an end to all Turkish claims against Israeli military personnel and the state of Israel over the raid, and the mutual restoration of ambassadors.

A senior Turkish official said that under the agreement, Turkey would deliver "humanitarian aid and other non-military products" to Gaza and engage in infrastructure investments, including the construction of residential buildings and the completion of a 200-bed hospital.

Turkey would also be involved in projects addressing energy and water shortages in Gaza, the official said, adding that "the amount of electricity and drinking water to Gaza residents will increase and new power plants will be constructed."

The official, who cannot be named because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the deal, said the agreement did not make any reference to Turkey's ties to Hamas, saying "Turkey will continue supporting the Palestinian state and the people of Palestine." The militant Islamic group Hamas controls Gaza.

Focus

10 years after housing peaked, US is more of a renter nation

JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

MOUNT PLEASANT, South Carolina (AP)—It's a troublesome story playing out across America in the 10 years since the housing bubble peaked and then burst in a ruinous crash: As real estate has climbed back, homeowners are thriving while renters are struggling.

For many longtime owners, times are good. They're enjoying the benefits of growing equity and reduced mortgage payments from ultra-low rates.

But for America's growing class of renters, surging costs, stagnant pay and rising home values have made it next to impossible to save enough to buy.

The possible consequences are bleak for a nation already grappling with economic inequality: Whatever wealth most Americans possess mainly comes from home equity. An enlarged renter class means fewer Americans can build that same wealth and financial security.

Nearly two-thirds of adults still own homes. And some who rent do so by choice. Yet ownership has become a more distant dream for the many Americans who still regard it as a route to prosperity and pride. The problem has become especially severe in areas that offer the best job prospects as well as those that have been battered by foreclosures.

"It doesn't paint a pretty picture," said Svenja Gudell, chief economist at Zillow, the online real estate database company. "You're really blocking out a group of buyers from owning a home. They're truly living paycheck to paycheck, and that does not put them into a good position to buy."

Joe Fabie and his wife face just such a bind. They moved to Mount Pleasant, just over the bridge from historic Charleston, South Carolina after law school in Pittsburgh. The suburb's pastel-hued harbor vistas, tin-roofed houses and Spanish moss-adorned live oaks were enchanting.

But the rising rent on their one-bedroom apartment—more than for their three-bedroom rental in Pittsburgh—made it impossible to save enough to buy a home. With their rent going up again, the couple moved to a cheaper suburb in hopes of repaying their student debt and saving for a starter home.

"The best school district is Mount Pleasant, and we would like to be there," said Fabie, 27. "But if you're lucky you can get some beat-up homes for around $300,000."

AP

In this Tuesday, April 19, 2016, photo, Joe Fabie, right, and his wife, Christi, pose for a photo in front of their rental home in Charleston, S.C. The Fabies left Mount Pleasant, S.C., to rent somewhere cheaper. Both have law school debt and are saving to buy a home.

An exclusive analysis by The Associated Press of census data covering over 300 communities found that two major forces are driving a wedge between the fortunes of renters and homeowners:

-Historically low mortgage rates have enabled homeowners to refinance and shrink their monthly payments, thereby reducing a major household cost. The median annual mortgage expense for a U.S. homeowner has dropped by $1,492 since 2006.

-A combination of foreclosures and new college graduates crowding into the strongest job markets has raised demand for rentals. Renters accounted for all the 8 million-plus net households the United States added in the past decade. Home ownership has dipped to 63.5 percent, near a 48-year low.

That demand has driven up rents, which in turn have prevented or delayed people from buying first homes.

The government says if you spend more than 30 percent of your pretax pay on housing, you are "cost-burdened." The total number of renters in that category has jumped more than 30 percent in the past decade, to 21.2 million. Half of all renters are now considered cost-burdened, compared with just 24 percent in 1960.

These trends are reflected in how and where Americans live. Suburban cul-de-sacs built for owners are now tilting toward rentals, especially in such areas as Orlando, Las Vegas and Tampa, where the bubble and crash were especially intense.

After the bust, investors bought distressed houses in these communities at sharp discounts and rented them out. Many of the new tenants belong to Generation X households—ages 35 to 51—that began renting after the crash, according to the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Rents have also jumped in areas that absorbed many young college-educated job hunters. These workers have increasingly clustered in areas, including Boston, San Diego and Washington, with abundant jobs but high housing costs. The result is delayed home ownership for a population group that historically had the means to buy.

The AP analysis also found a contrasting belt of stability across the Midwest where the housing boom and meltdown had little effect on homeownership. Rates of ownership remained relatively stable, for example, in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri, where starter homes are comparatively affordable.

But the transformations have been vast in other areas, particularly in smaller suburbs where much of the country lives.

Both before and during the housing boom, farmland around the country was bought cheaply and developed into houses, schools and shopping plazas—a build-out that ignited homeownership. Now, in a twist, many of those cul-de-sacs are occupied by renters living in homes whose former owners lost them to foreclosure.

To see just how drastically the foreclosure crisis transformed certain neighborhoods from the domain of owners into blocks of rental properties, consider the Orlando suburbs.

The shift has been vivid over the past five years in the Piedmont Park neighborhood of Apopka, a former agricultural hub now crowded with housing developments. Where one in 10 homes was once a rental, now more than a third are. Many are owned by Wall Street investment firms that bought them out of foreclosure at deep discounts.

Erika Pringley, a 42-year-old police dispatcher, rented with her husband a three-bedroom ranch house this year. Through a string of subsidiaries, the house is owned by Blackstone, the world's largest real estate private equity group.

Previously, the house had been owned for eight years by Damian and Eva Elizondo, who lost it to foreclosure in 2013. The Elizondos owed nearly $258,000 on the home; the investment firm bought it for roughly $100,000.

At that price, the equivalent of the monthly mortgage would be under $500.

Pringley's rent: $1,310 a month.

Pringley, who works for the Florida Highway Patrol, hopes to buy a home—if she can emerge from debt.

"I'm kind of tired of paying for somebody else's property," she said. "At my age, I want to own something that's my own, have something that's my own."

Making that leap to ownership is becoming harder for typical Americans. The average first-time buyer makes $84,559, much more than the average household income of $75,037—the widest such gap in over 15 years, according to an analysis by the online housing marketplace BuildZoom.

The residue of the housing bubble also remains achingly visible in Las Vegas, where the gamble of no-money-down, interest-only mortgages ignited a rush of construction in 2006 that led to mass foreclosures.

Vegas recovered slowly. Tourists returned to the casinos. Population growth picked up as retirees flocked to the Nevada desert. Ikea opened its first Las Vegas outlet, not far from where 8,000 apartment units are planned for construction.

Still, thousands of houses are stuck in the foreclosure pipeline, controlled by banks, and could flood the market should prices recover enough. Nearly half of Las Vegas now rents, compared with less than 40 percent a decade ago.

This closes one of the paths to accruing wealth. On average, homeowners have a net housing wealth of $150,506, according to figures soon to be released by the Urban Institute's Housing Finance Center. That average climbs to $229,296 for those who own their homes free and clear, making the house an asset that provides a crucial financial cushion.

Elsewhere, rising prosperity is the reason why renters are stuck.

Just as the economy tanked nearly a decade ago, millennials began flooding the job market after college and graduate school. The most educated tended to cluster in cities where jobs were still plentiful, such as Boston, San Francisco, and San Diego. They now pay historically high rents—a result of too few apartments to meet demand and too few renters with enough savings to buy.

Over the past decade, the number of under-35 college graduates in Washington rocketed up more than 50 percent to nearly 100,000. Bistros, boutiques and posh gyms opened along the once-downtrodden 14th Street corridor. Builders erected condos and rehabbed old buildings into apartments.

All this has created a paradox in Washington: Incomes are rising—normally fuel for home buying—even as homeownership is declining. Average household income in the district has climbed an inflation-adjusted 8.7 percent since 2006 to $104,615, according to the Census Bureau. Yet ownership has dipped to 41.6 percent, from 45.8 percent.

Ultra-low mortgage rates have enabled Jim Phillips, 51, to capitalize on the influx, buying condos and renting them at a profit.

"With more and more younger people moving into the city, it's creating an opportunity for me," Phillips said. "So far, I have two condos. My goal is to buy, basically, one a year."

Overdrive

AP
The 2016 BMW M2 in Long Beach Blue Metallic coat, north of the Franklin Street Bridge in Chicago, on May 31, 2016. A joy to drive, everything about it feels right.

AUTO REVIEW: 2016 BMW M2 sports coupe is for drivers who like driving

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In the past five years, BMW has launched more than 20 new or redesigned products and variants, from electric pods to crossover coupes. There was worry among 3-Series purists that the "ultimate driving machine" had devolved into everyone's everyday appliance.

It is a classic growth conundrum, like your favorite local band finally hitting it big.

Worry not: The all-new M2 coupe is the most intimate of sports car performances. Everything about it feels right, cruising along the highway or slinging the stick in and out of corners on the track.

It is a joy to drive.

The M2 is inspired by BMW's first turbo for the masses, the beloved-but-rare 2002, which launched in 1974 and helped the German brand gain worldwide notice. Some drivers compared its pure feel to the M3s of yesteryear but this small, power-packed coupe stands on its own.

The M2 stacks up between the M235 and the M3 in both price and output.

LOOKS

The M2's performance profile is subtle, with no wild wings or radically raked windshields. It is undoubtedly a sports coupe but the subtle styling is refined enough to fit in at the school drop-off. But its broad shoulders and wide hips are low and ready to pounce. The lower front is all air intakes, promising that this twin kidney grille is about combustion, not comfort. The low-slung body widens, with flared rear-wheel arches that house 19-inch wheels wrapped in super-sticky Michelin Pilot Super Sport tires specially made for the M2. The tucked rear and the quad exhaust pipes complete the power portrait. Our tester came in cool blue, or Long Beach Blue Metallic, for $550 that popped in sunlight and blended into the night, letting the engine noise earn the attention.

SOUNDS

Ignite the 3.0-liter in-line six-cylinder turbo engine to snap, crackle and pop. It's a hungry growl that is quiet enough to blend into the neighborhood but explosive enough to draw admirers.

Hitting the on-ramp in sport mode lights up a smile that must be tempered, because that 343 pound-feet of torque at just 1,400 rpm ratchets you up to illegal velocities in an instant. On the track, that whirling, warbling, popping blends into a soundtrack this car deserves.

FEELS

The six-speed manual transmission is meant for drivers who like driving. There is a seven-speed dual clutch automatic that I'm sure is wonderful — it hits 60 mph in 4.3 seconds, a tick quicker than the manual — but this car is meant to be mated with a manual. Hitting the gears is effortless, and short throws make shifts seamless. It feels great, even in traffic.

The steering wheel is chunky without a flat bottom. The electronic steering might not be as taut or immediate as a Corvette, but there is an overall balance to the car that lets you find lines and stick to them.

Part of that is due to the superlative braking, perfect weight distribution and the tires. On a limited track run at Road America, the grip enabled us to enter a corner much harder and maintain speed in a way that overcame any slight shortcoming in steering. You can swing the rear-wheel-driven end out but it never felt like it was swinging me. The M2 made me feel like a better driver than I am.

The M2 delivers on BMW's proud performance history and is the best car in and around this range.

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 BMW M2 at a glance

- Base: $51,700
- As tested: $53,500 (excluding $995 delivery)
- Mpg: 18 city, 26 highway
- Engine: 3.0-liter turbo in-line six-cylinder
- Transmission: Six-speed manual
- Parting shot: Performance coupe puts BMW back on track

MOTORING Q&A: Aftermarket parts OK for aging Lexus?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I've been told that the catalytic converter on my 2007 Lexus 350 with 100,000 miles on it has failed. I intend to keep my "retirement" vehicle for a long time. Can I have a shop install an aftermarket converter to save a lot of money? Will it be as satisfactory as a factory-new converter? Also, my 2007 Chevy Impala SS with 60,000 miles uses two quarts of oil per 1,900 miles. I've been told that an engine flush with each oil change could help. With this level of consumption, what type and weight oil should I use?

A: Your Lexus has a pair of catalytic converters, one incorporated into each of the two exhaust manifolds on the V-6. The cost of original manufacturer Lexus manifold/converter is roughly $750-$1,100 each plus installation, depending on whether your Lexus is an ES350 or GS350. You're right! That's a lot of money to spend on a nearly 10-year-old vehicle.

Yes, you can take the car to your favorite shop to have aftermarket manifold/converters installed. Part prices online range from about $200-$400 each and they appear to be direct replacement units.

In regards to your Impala SS, I found an interesting service bulletin addressing excessive oil consumption on this 5.3-liter V-8 engine. The bulletin addresses the possibility of carbon buildup causing the piston rings to stick, thus allowing excess oil into the combustion chambers.

This engine is equipped with GM's active fuel management, or AFM system, formerly called disable on demand, or DOD. This system utilizes engine oil pressure to disable specific valve lifters to turn off four of the engine's eight cylinders during light load operation such as cruising on the highway. The system effectively traps the exhaust gases in each of these cylinders during AFM activation. After the exhaust gases are compressed on the compression stroke, they act like a spring to help push the piston downward on what would be the power stroke in normal operation. This spring-like action helps reduce pumping losses in the disabled cylinders.

Apparently, during AFM activation, excess oil from the AFM pressure relief valve may collect on cylinder walls and eventually carbon-foul piston rings. The fix, as per the bulletin, is to de-carbonize the cylinders with GM Top Engine Cleaner or SeaFoam, then install a redesigned oil pan gasket that incorporates a new AFM shield to keep the excess oil spray off the cylinder walls.

Q: My 1999 Saab 9-5 with 107,000 miles died at an intersection recently. I was able to start it and traveled another few blocks, but the car died again. This time I was unable to restart the engine; the battery had died. The Saab was towed to my mechanic, who jump-started the car. My mechanic narrowed the problem down to either a fuel pump failure or a crankshaft sensor malfunction. But since the car started after the jump, the mechanic couldn't really pinpoint the problem.

A: Since the car restarted properly after being towed, make sure the battery and alternator are good. Cars don't run well without electrons.

I'm more inclined toward a problem with the fuel pump, fuel pressure or exhaust back pressure. Your mechanic could check the electrical current that the fuel pump is drawing. Typically, fuel pumps draw roughly one ampere of current for every 10 psi of pressure. Your Saab needs 43 psi of fuel pressure, so the current draw should be in the range of 4-5 amperes.

Also, with the age of the vehicle it might be possible for debris and/or contamination in the fuel tank to slowly clog the fuel strainer and restrict fuel flow from the pump to the engine. After the engine dies, the debris falls back into the tank so the engine restarts and runs for a while until the same thing happens again. Another possibility is a restricted exhaust system or plugged catalytic converter. The restricted exhaust chokes the engine until it dies, then back pressure dissipates and the engine starts again.

Life & Style

BET Awards full of Prince tributes and political moments

The BET Awards (AP)—or "The Prince Tribute Show"—featured emotional and energetic performances from Sheila E., Stevie Wonder and Jennifer Hudson honoring the Purple One, along with political statements on issues ranging from racial injustice to the U.S. presidential election.

Sheila E., jamming on the drums and guitar, singing and dancing without shoes, closed the three-hour-plus show at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles with "Let's Work," ''A Love Bizarre," ''The Glamorous Life," ''America" and more. She was joined by "Purple Rain" actor Jerome Benton and Prince's ex-wife, Mayte Garcia, who danced alongside the background dancers throughout the set. They ended by raising a purple guitar in the air as the audience cheered them on.

Hudson, rocking a white-hooded blazer, and Wonder, clad in a purple suit, sang "Purple Rain"—a month after the piano-playing icon performed the song with Madonna at the Billboard Music Awards, which BET dissed on Twitter. This time, Hudson was a vocal powerhouse, delivering screeching vocals while Wonder played piano and Tori Kelly was on guitar while a photo montage of Prince appeared on the purple-lit stage.

Janelle Monae was animated and funky as she danced skillfully and ran through Prince tunes, including "Kiss," ''Delirious" and "I Would Die 4 U." Bilal was sensual and passionate during "The Beautiful Ones," even lying on the floor while singing near the end of the performance. The Roots backed Bilal, and the band was also behind Erykah Badu as she performed "The Ballad of Dorothy Parker," singing softly as she grooved in place.

AP

Stevie Wonder, left, and Tori Kelly perform "Take Me With U" during a tribute to Prince at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Los Angeles.

After singing an original song, Maxwell went into "Nothing Compares 2 U," changing some of the lyrics while honoring Prince.

Though the BET Awards were heavy on honoring the icon who died on April 21, the show went from Prince to political throughout the night.

"Grey's Anatomy" actor Jesse Williams, who earned the humanitarian award for his efforts as an activist, gave a fiery, nearly six-minute speech that brought the audience to its feet and earned a rousing applause.

"We're done watching and waiting while this invention called whiteness uses and abuses us, burying black people out of sight and out of mind while extracting our culture, our dollars, our entertainment like oil, black gold, ghettoizing and demeaning our creations then stealing them; gentrifying our genius and trying us on like costumes before discarding our bodies," he said onstage.

Williams was introduced by BET CEO Debra Lee, who spoke about gun violence and brought up the recent Orlando shooting at the Pulse nightclub.

"We all need to take stance against gun violence. You can make a difference," Lee said onstage. "Use your voice and vote."

When "Empire" star Taraji P. Henson won best actress, she encouraged the audience to vote against presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

"I'm really not political but it's serious out here, and for those who thing that, you know, 'Oh he's not going to win'—think again. So we really need to pull together and turn this country around," she said.

Co-host Tracee Ellis Ross said she was supporting Hillary Clinton and reminded viewers several times to "get yourself registered!" Clinton has a past with BET: She appeared at BET's "Black Girls Rock!" event in April and told the audience "my life has been changed by strong black women leaders."

The BET Awards wasn't all serious, though. Beyonce kicked off the show with a surprise performance featuring Kendrick Lamar and multiple background dancers of her song "Freedom," dancing in a pool of water to the song's heavy beat. At one point, Lamar and Beyoncé kicked the water and danced in sync, drawing a heavy applause from the audience.

Winners at Sunday night's BET Awards in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Winners of the BET Awards, presented Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles:

- Video of the Year—Beyonce, "Formation"
- Best Male R&B/Pop Artist—Bryson Tiller
- Best Female R&B/Pop Artist—Beyonce
- Best Male Hip Hop Artist—Drake
- Best Female Hip Hop Artist—Nicki Minaj
- Best New Artist—Bryson Tiller
- Best Group—Drake and Future
- Best Collaboration—Rihanna featuring Drake, "Work"
- Best Gospel—Kirk Franklin
- Youngstars Award—Amandla Stenberg
- Coca-Cola Viewers' Choice—Beyonce
- Centric Award—Beyonce, "Formation
- Video Director of the Year—Director X
- Best Actor—Michael B. Jordan
- Best Actress—Taraji P. Henson
- Best Movie—"Straight Outta Compton"
- Sportswoman of the Year—Serena Williams
- Sportsman of the Year—Stephen Curry
- Humanitarian Award—Jesse Williams
- Lifetime Achievement—Samuel L. Jackson
- Best International Act, U.K.—Skepta
- Best International Act, Africa—Wizkid (Nigeria)

Jesse Williams moves BET Awards crowd with passionate speech

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Jesse Williams brought the energy of a civil rights rally to the BET Awards Sunday night as he accepted the humanitarian award, demanding equal rights and called for an end to police brutality against black people and white appropriation of black culture.

The "Grey's Anatomy" star brought the Microsoft Theater audience to its feet with his passionate speech.

"A system built to impoverish, divide and destroy us cannot stand if we do," he said, adding, "We know that police somehow manage to deescalate, disarm and not kill white people every day."

Williams compared spending money on brand-name clothing to the days when slaves were branded with their owners' markings. He said it's not the job of the brutalized to comfort the bystander.

AP

Jesse Williams accepts the humanitarian award at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Los Angeles.

"We're done watching and waiting while this invention called whiteness uses and abuses us, burying black people out of sight and out of mind while extracting our culture, our dollars, our entertainment like oil, black gold, ghettoizing and demeaning our creations then stealing them, gentrifying our genius and then trying us on like costumes before discarding our bodies like rinds of strange fruit," he said.

Backstage, Williams said he hopes his remarks during the show remind people "just because we get to be here tonight doesn't mean we made it.

"What I'd like to see us do is return to a space where it's OK for folks to be proud and outwardly black in public," he said, "and not have to feel like we have to be safe to live in white spaces and to make everybody comfortable when we've spent centuries being uncomfortable. It's time to shed that fear."

Laila Ali, Jaime Foxx pay tribute to Muhammad Ali

By KRISTIN M. HALL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laila Ali paid tribute to her late father, sports icon Muhammad Ali, during the BET Awards on Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Ali, a retired boxer herself, started to choke up as she spoke about her father's legacy and the outpouring of support since his death at the age of 74 on June 3 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

"My father, Muhammad Ali, lived his life with conviction and purpose," Ali said. "He is known as the greatest athlete of all time, a man who fearlessly faced opposition both in and outside the ring."

Actor Jamie Foxx, who starred in the 2001 biopic about the icon's life, "Ali," as Ali's cornerman Drew Bundini Brown, also spoke about the legend, noting that he stood up when no one else was doing so.

After getting a standing ovation, Ali stood in front of a photo of her father holding her as an infant and talked about her father's evolution in his heart, mind and spirit over the course of his lifetime.

AP

Laila Ali speaks during a tribute to her late father, Muhammad Ali, at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Los Angeles.

"These past few weeks my father's generosity and love has been matched by a worldwide outpouring of love and reverence for him and our entire family," Ali said.

"If he was here today, he would humbly ask you to pray not just for our family, but for all of mankind."

US rapper fined for indecent language charges in St. Kitts

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts and Nevis (AP)—U.S. rapper 50 Cent and a member of his entourage were detained in St. Kitts and Nevis for using "indecent language" during a performance at a music festival, local police said Sunday.

A police statement said 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, and a member of his entourage named Bajar Walter were arrested and charged after a Saturday night performance.

The rapper's representative Amanda Ruisi said in a statement Sunday that Jackson initially had been booked only to host the St. Kitts Music Festival.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2011 file photo, Rapper and businessman Curtis Jackson III, known as 50 Cent, poses during an interview in New York.

But then, festival organizers insisted he also perform and "there were profanities used during his performance, "said Ruisi.

She said Jackson will make sure to leave the profanity in the U.S. during his next trip to the Caribbean country.

Jackson paid a fine and was on his way home on Sunday, she added.

Employees in the police department's press office said they didn't know what exact words were allegedly used during the performance.

Under the country's Small Charges Act, it is a misdemeanor offense to use profane words in any public place in this former British colony of around 40,000 people. Police say an offender could be sent to jail depending on how serious the violation is considered to be.

American rapper DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, was arrested in St. Kitts for using profanity during a concert in 2003.

Shaq brings US basketball diplomacy to Cuban capital

HAVANA (AP)—The Shaq show came to Havana on Sunday as NBA great Shaquille O'Neal put on a basketball clinic for local youngsters, becoming the latest emissary for American outreach to the people of Cuba.

The 2016 Hall of Fame inductee and four-time NBA champion led star-struck kids in layup drills and coached scrimmages while onlookers cheered from the sidelines, part of a U.S. State Department-sponsored visit to foster people-to-people exchanges with Cuban citizens.

Recent months and years have seen a string of American sporting, diplomatic and cultural missions to the island as Washington and Havana mend relations that were openly hostile for over five decades. Ties were formally restored last year under presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro.

"Baseball, soccer, basketball—it's about sports, you know," O'Neal said. "We share a lot of things in common. We just want to come over here and extend our friendly hand and just start smoothing things out."

"It was great for (Obama) to reopen the door, regain a better relationship with this beautiful island," he added.

Basketball aficionado Juan Navarrete, 13, was thrilled to see the NBA legend up close.

AP

NBA Hall of famer Shaquille O'Neal, plays with a youngster during a clinic with young players in Havana, Sunday, June 26, 2016.

'Independence Day' co-stars Goldblum, Hemsworth are BFFs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liam Hemsworth and Jeff Goldblum apparently developed a bromance while making their new movie, "Independence Day: Resurgence."

Hemsworth says he loved Goldblum before they ever worked together and "I love him now."

"I love you," Goldblum told Hemsworth as they promoted the film in London.

Hemsworth said his co-star's enthusiasm is what he finds the most intoxicating.

"This guy is so much fun," Hemsworth said. "He loves acting, he loves making movies, so working with him ... was a constant reminder to enjoy it and be passionate about it because this guy is more passionate about it than anyone there."

"Independence Day: Resurgence" is in theaters now.

Billy Joel to join Cuomo on NY breast cancer motorcycle ride

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's governor will ride alongside music icon Billy Joel in a statewide motorcycle ride to raise awareness about breast cancer before signing legislation that expands access to screenings for the disease.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo will begin his ride Monday morning at Sunken Meadow Park on Long Island. From there, the Democratic governor will ride alongside his girlfriend, Food Network star and breast cancer survivor Sandra Lee, and the Piano Man himself.

The trio will join hundreds of motorcycle riders as they travel into New York City, stopping at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan before heading upstate. The ride will end Monday evening in New Paltz.

Cuomo is also poised to sign legislation along the ride that would compel 210 hospitals to expand hours when mammograms are offered and require insurance companies to eliminate deductibles and copays for the screening and other diagnostic tests.

"Early detection is the best possible treatment for breast cancer, but far too many women face burdensome scheduling and insurance barriers that prevent them from gaining access to the diagnostic services they need and deserve," Cuomo said in a statement. "This ride is about spreading awareness and sending that message loud and clear, because when it comes to getting screened for cancer, waiting is simply not worth the risk."

AP

In this Nov. 19, 2014, file photo, Billy Joel, the recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, stands on stage during a concert in his honor at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington.

Some 15,000 women across the state are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, and 2,640 die from the disease.

Harley Davidson is donating a custom motorcycle for the governor to ride. It will later be auctioned off by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the governor's office said.

Boyfriend's mom's disapproval looms over couple's future

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Paul," and I have been together for five years. We want to get married, but his mother is Catholic and she doesn't approve because I am an Alaskan native, which from her perspective makes me a pagan.

Paul hasn't attended church or held any Catholic views for many years, but he won't tell his mother because he's afraid it would devastate her. She has told me we are living in sin, that our marriage could cause him to be excommunicated, and if we have children, they'll be bastards who will go to hell.

I am hurt and confused over this and don't know what to do or say about it. Every time I try to talk to her, she tries to persuade me to convert, which I don't want to do. I'd like to have a relationship with her, but I don't want to have to change who I am for her to approve of me or my future children. What advice can you give me to help me get through my situation?

DOOMED TO HELL IN ALASKA

DEAR "DOOMED": Are you sure your boyfriend WANTS to be married? Your problem isn't his mother; it's that he can't find the backbone to tell her he plans to marry you with or without her approval.

Paul's mother's thinking is outdated. Non-Catholic Alaskan natives are not "pagan"; the majority are Christian. As for your future children being "bastards doomed to hell"—she's repeating an ancient prejudice, and that's all it is. It is no longer the position of the Catholic Church to excommunicate people who marry out of the faith.

You asked my advice; here it is: The woman is a religious bigot. She's unlikely to ever approve of you or stop trying to convert you, and it has gone beyond the point of concern for your soul to just plain insulting. She isn't going to change, and as long as your boyfriend is afraid of "devastating" her, your situation won't change either. A marriage to him under these conditions won't be easy, so please think twice about it.

DEAR ABBY: Some good friends of mine were unable to have kids because of a medical issue. They recently adopted a preteen daughter, and the adoption became final a few months ago.

They are now having an "adoption party" where everyone can come and hang out and just have a good time. What is the etiquette for such a celebration? It's being held at a park where there is lots to do. Should I bring a card, a gift for the child, something for the parents or nothing?

CONFUSED IN ARIZONA

DEAR CONFUSED: What a wonderful occasion to celebrate! It would be thoughtful, generous and welcoming if you brought along a gift for the girl, and I'm sure it would be appreciated not only by their daughter but also by the new parents.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

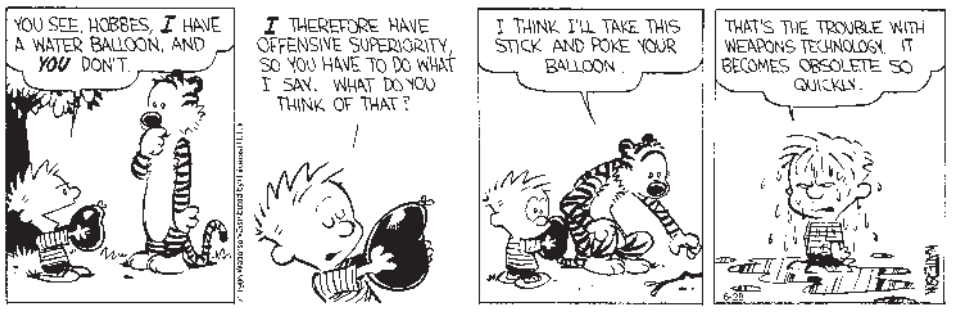
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU SEE, HOBBES, I HAVE A WATER BALLOON, AND YOU DON'T.
I THEREFORE HAVE OFFENSIVE SUPERIORITY, SO YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
I THINK I'LL TAKE THIS STICK AND POKE YOUR BALLOON.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. IT BECOMES OBSOLETE SO QUICKLY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

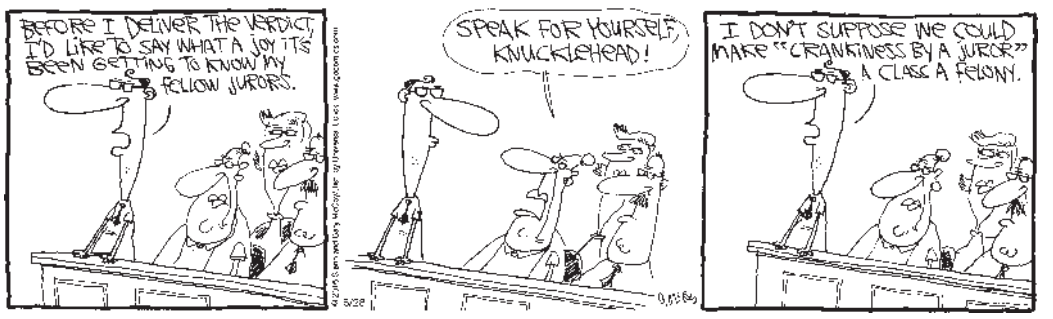
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. A DECK BUILDER I'M NOT.
HOW'S YOUR THUMB?
THE DOCTOR SAID NOTHING'S BROKEN, AND THE STITCHES SHOULD HEAL WELL.
I BET IT'S YOUR EGO THAT HURTS THE WORST.
NO. NO, IT'S DEFINITELY THE SPLIT-OPEN THUMB.
SHOULD I BE ABLE TO SEE IT THROBBING LIKE THAT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BEFORE I DELIVER THE VERDICT, I'D LIKE TO SAY WHAT A JOY IT'S BEEN GETTING TO KNOW MY FELLOW JURORS.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, KNUCKLEHEAD!
I DON'T SUPPOSE ONE COULD MAKE "CRANKINESS BY A JUROR" A CLASS A FELONY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tale teller
5 Porgy's love
9 Baseball's Ripken
12 Author Ferber
13 Needle case
14 Coach Parseghian
15 Golf hazards
17 Scepter
18 Charged bits
19 Rushmore figure
21 "Hogwash!
24 Shade
25 List-ending abbr.
26 Stretch out
30 Scooted
31 Unanimously
32 Bikini half
33 Short-change, as one's salary
35 United nations
36 Salver
37 Choppers
38 Bucking horse
40 Sty cry
42 Tier
43 Dickens novel
48 Hearty brew
49 Evening, in an ad
50 Zilch
51 Solidify
52 "Born Free" lioness
53 Bongo, e.g.

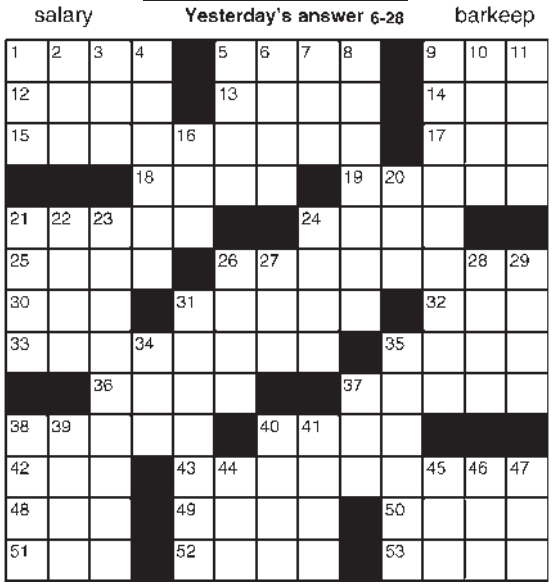
DOWN

1 French article
2 Wyo. neighbor
3 Raggedy doll
4 Tire type
5 Swiss capital
6 Greek vowels
7 Dine
8 Vatican's — Chapel
9 Foldable furniture
10 Yankee nickname
11 Lord's wife
16 AAA job
20 Chang's brother
21 Andean land
22 Ollie's pal
23 Small wiper
24 Theater award
26 Catch sight of
27 Mauna —
28 Jog
29 Apiece
31 Weaver turned into a spider
34 Directional ending
35 Show compassion
37 Potent stick
38 Boast
39 Portrayal
40 Scraps
41 Concept
44 Be sick
45 Scratch
46 College URL ender
47 "Cheers" barkeep

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	A	G		P	S	H	A	W		S	A	G
O	R	E		O	P	E	R	A		I	R	E
S	I	L	K	W	O	H	M	S		L	E	A
			I	W	O		O	H	D	E	A	R
H	E	S	T	O	N		R	E	I	N		
A	L	I		W	E	B		D	O	T	T	Y
M	I	L	K		D	I	S		N	C	A	A
M	A	L	I	A		N	E	W		A	M	P
			I	N	G	A		G	A	B	L	E	S
B	E	N	G	A	L		O	V	A			
A	V	E		S	I		V	E	R	A	D	O
L	E	S		S	T	A	I	R		O	A	K
I	N	S		I	O	T	A	S		L	B	S

Yesterday's answer 6-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kellie Pickler, 30; John Cusack, 50; Kathy Bates, 68; Mel Brooks, 90.

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get you down. Spread your wings and head in a direction that will satisfy your curiosity. What you discover along the way will help you make better lifestyle choices. Keep your emotions and personal dilemmas separate from business. Being productive will help ease stress and allow you to advance. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 24, 31, 43, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a close eye on your belongings. Put more effort into simplifying your life and keeping things mellow. Use your intelligence to deal with emotional matters and do your best to learn as much as you can before you make a move. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Some of the most interesting conversations will happen behind closed doors or within the confines of a very small group. It's best not to divulge secrets. A personal interest will develop through the revival of an old friendship. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get everything in order before you share information or make a presentation. You'll be criticized if you lack the backup information necessary to answer questions. Precision and detail will make a difference. Rely on past experiences. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Think outside the box. If you let emotional matters escalate, you will fall behind schedule. Make responsible changes at home or to your personal life instead of taking care of other people's responsibilities. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Speak up and present your talents and skills. Your charismatic personality will help you sway others to see things your way. A new position will turn into an opportunity to start over. Consider making a move and keep an open mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take it upon yourself to make the personal changes that will help give you a trendy new look. Keeping up with the times will help you advance. Enjoy some downtime with someone you like to share your accomplishments with. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Work toward something that allows you to show off your creative skills or will help you persuade others to lend you a helping hand. Intellectual collaborations will lead to an interesting partnership with someone different from you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel or attending a trade show or conference will help you decide how you want to move forward. Growth, enlightenment and romance should be your priorities. A personal pick-me-up will do you good. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be on the lookout for someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Don't fall for sweet-talk or bullying. Stick to familiar people and places to avoid any sort of run-in that might cause you problems. Protect your valuables. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Check out your options and you will find a great opportunity. Your involvement in a group effort will pay off and introduce you to new people. Don't make an impulsive emotional decision. Time is on your side. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Work until you reach your goal. The chance to share what you have accomplished with someone special will help to push you in a new direction. Plan to present, promote and network all you can. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look for a pleasurable way to spend your time. Getting together with someone who shares your likes and interests will bring you closer together. A personal change looks promising. Update your appearance and socialize more. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, ambitious and productive. You are willful and dramatic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3				8		
	2			1			7	
	8		9		3		1	
		1	3		7	5		
	3			4			2	
		2	6		5	1		
	6		8		2		4	
	7			3			8	
		4				3		

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	1	3	5	6	9	7	2
3	7	9	2	8	4	6	1	5
6	2	5	9	1	7	8	3	4
2	3	4	7	6	1	5	9	8
1	5	8	4	9	3	2	6	7
7	9	6	8	2	5	3	4	1
9	8	3	1	4	2	7	5	6
4	6	2	5	7	9	1	8	3
5	1	7	6	3	8	4	2	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EXOTIC FRUITS Solution: 11 letters

E	V	A	G	A	L	L	I	D	O	P	A	S	B	A
M	L	Y	C	H	E	E	B	K	A	L	A	S	L	C
I	P	R	R	E	L	O	P	I	T	A	Y	A	O	K
L	E	O	A	R	L	O	Q	U	A	T	N	C	O	E
R	R	S	M	Y	E	P	E	W	A	O	O	O	M	E
I	S	E	B	E	R	B	P	Y	A	N	G	M	E	I
F	I	A	U	A	G	R	E	A	A	I	A	D	L	N
F	M	P	T	Z	O	R	E	S	R	A	R	R	P	O
A	M	P	A	A	T	S	A	B	O	A	D	N	P	O
K	O	L	N	R	S	A	O	N	N	O	T	A	A	T
S	N	E	E	A	I	N	G	U	A	O	G	S	R	A
E	N	E	N	A	G	N	O	L	R	T	M	A	E	K
M	S	T	I	U	R	F	R	A	T	S	E	L	T	S
I	O	N	A	W	I	K	I	W	I	G	O	U	A	A
L	U	C	U	M	A	E	O	N	I	P	E	P	W	S

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Ackee, Agave, Araza, Bloom, Cocona, Dragon, Gooseberry, Kaffir Lime, Kiwano, Kiwi, Limes, Longan, Loquat, Lucuma, Lychee, Pepino, Persimmon, Pewa, Pitaya, Platonia, Pomegranate, Pulasan, Rambutan, Rose Apple, Salak, Salmonberry, Santol, Sapodilla, Saskatoon, Soursop, Star Apple, Star Fruit, Trees, Ugni, Water Apple, Yangmei

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SPECTRUM ELECTRIC, INC.
Notice to Creditors

TO THE CREDITORS OF SPECTRUM ELECTRIC, INC.:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Spectrum Electric, Inc., formerly a CNMI corporation, was dissolved, effective as of the close of business on June 27, 2016. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 20-50.1-1325 of the CNMI Business Corporation Regulations, all known creditors desiring to make a claim against the Corporation must provide the basis for the claim, the amount of the claim, and copies of any and all documents supporting the claim. Claims may be sent to Spectrum Electric, Inc., in care of its attorney, Michael A. White, Esq., whose address is P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. Claims must be received by October 26, 2016. Claims of known creditors which are not received by this date will be barred.

Persons with claims against the Corporation who do not receive a copy of this notice, and who wish to make a claim against the Corporation, must provide the information described above, to the address set forth above. All such claims against the Corporation will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication of this notice.

The effective date of this Notice is June 28, 2016.

/s/ Joseph C. Corella, President

CERI PACIFIC INVESTMENT, LTD.
Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager :
Major Responsibilities and requirements: Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering or related discipline with over 15 years of project management or design experience in real estate or construction company. Make and implement annual plans for achieving revenue growth and ensure the company revenue target. Ensure teams are maintaining highly client satisfaction and with creative thinking. Perform additional responsibilities as requested or assigned by board of directors. Excellent communication, organization and analytical skill. Written and verbal communication skills in English and Chinese (Mandarin) preferred. Willing to travel.

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Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to HR.COGR@eland.co.kr not later than June 30, 2016 at 1:00 PM. All qualified applicants must be willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays and be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Provide at least two recommendations letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. Application form is available in the hotel lobby and HR Office. Incomplete application may not be considered for assessment.
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Chile wins Copa; Messi misses, quitting Argentina

AP

Chile players celebrate with their trophy after the Copa America Centenario championship soccer match, Sunday, June 26, 2016, in East Rutherford, N.J. Chile defeated Argentina, 4-2, in penalty kicks to win the championship.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Lionel Messi put his penalty kick over the crossbar, grabbed his shirt, clenched his teeth and put both hands over his face.

A few minutes later he walked off the field, a dazed, pained look on his bearded face. The greatest player of his generation, perhaps soccer's best ever, he was still without a title on Argentina's national team.

"The national team is over for me," he told the Argentine network TyC Sports after Chile beat Argentina for the Copa America title Sunday night. "It's been four finals, it's not meant for me. I tried. It was the thing I wanted the most, but I couldn't get it, so I think it's over."

Chile beat Argentina in the final for the second straight year, 4-2 in the shootout following a 0-0 tie that ended an expanded 16-nation edition in the United States to mark the championship's 100th anniversary.

Messi, five-time FIFA Player of the Year, winner of four Champions League titles and eight Spanish La Liga crowns with Barcelona, was crushed. Much of his nation had counted on him to bring home its first major title since 1993.

Playing two days after his 29th birthday, Messi lost a final for the third year in a row and the fourth time overall with Argentina. There was also the 2007 Copa final with Brazil, when he was still a wunderkind, and then an extra-time defeat to Germany in the 2014 World Cup.

A crowd of 82,076 filled MetLife Stadium -- the largest to see a soccer game in New Jersey— and many wore his No. 10 jersey in Argentina's blue and white and Barcelona's navy and red.

Francisco Silva converted the shootout finale for the fifth-ranked La Roja after goalkeeper Claudio Bravo —Messi's Barcelona teammate—made a diving stop on Lucas Biglia's attempt. Chile, ranked fifth in the world, upset the top-ranked Albiceleste.

On an ill-tempered evening that included a first-half ejection on each side and eight yellow cards, the game was scoreless through regulation and 30 minutes of extra time, with Argentina's Gonzalo Higuain missing a clear goal-scoring opportunity for the third straight final. Argentina outshot Chile 16-4 and La Roja collapsed three, four and even five defenders around Messi, then chopped down the diminutive attacker when he tried to accelerate toward the goal.

Messi, who scored five goals in the tournament, sent a free kick that Sergio Aguero nearly headed in 10 minutes into extra time, only to have Bravo jump and extend his right hand to tip the ball over the crossbar. Messi's free kick in extra time went off the wall.

Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero saved the opening kick by Arturo Vidal, and up stepped Messi, considered alongside Brazil's Pele and Argentina's Diego Maradona as the sport's greatest ever. While he won the titles at the under-20 and Olympic (under-23) levels for Argentina, in the minds of many he needs a championship with his nation's senior team to solidify his place in history

Messi sent his shot over Bravo into the stands. Nicolas Castillo and Charles Aranguiz converted their kicks for Chile, and Javier Mascherano and Sergio Aguero made theirs, leaving the teams tied 2-2 after three rounds.

Jean Beausejour put Chile ahead, and Bravo dived to his right, saving Biglia's shot and bringing up Silva, a 30-year-old midfielder. Messi briefly pulled his jersey of his face, as if not wanting to watch.

Romero dived to his left and the shot went in to his right, giving Chile another title.

Messi crouched over, as if in pain, then got up, took off his captain's armband and walked to the bench, where he was consoled by Angel Di Maria. After Messi came back on the field, Aguero put a hand on one of Messi's shoulders. And new FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave Messi a pat on the back when Messi came onto the podium with his teammates for his second-place medal. Messi almost immediately took it off.

The tournament's average crowd of 46,119 was nearly double the 25,223 in Chile last year, and attendance will be used by the U.S. Soccer Federation as justification it deserves to host a World Cup again, likely as part of a bid for the 2026 tournament.

Brazilian referee Heber Lopes became the focus in the first half, ejecting a pair of defenders: Chile's Marcelo Diaz in the 28th minute and Argentina's Marcos Rojo in the 43rd. After issuing six yellow cards during a World Cup qualifier between the nations in March, Lopes handed out eight yellows, including one to Messi for diving in the 40th minute, and the two reds.

Diaz got his first yellow for hacking down Messi about 28 yards out in the 16th minute, then got his second for obstructing a charging Messi about 30 yards out. Rojo received a straight red when he slid into Arturo Vidal from behind and poked away the ball, but Vidal's leg bent awkwardly under his body as he fell.

Higuain had the best first-half chance in the 21st minute when he picked up a giveaway from Gary Medel, dribbled in and chipped the ball over Bravo only to have it roll wide of the far post. It was almost the exact time he broke in alone during the World Cup final against Germany and also shot wide. Higuain also missed a tap-in of Ezequiel Lavezzi's cross during the final minute of regulation in last year's final, then sent his penalty kick during the shootout over the crossbar.

France, Germany, and Belgium reach Euro quarterfinals

PARIS (AP)—France, Germany and Belgium sealed their places in the quarterfinals of the European Championship on Sunday as three of the pre-tournament favorites lived up to their promise.

There was a scare for the host nation after Ireland scored a second minute penalty, but Antoine Griezmann struck twice after the break to give France a deserved 2-1 victory in Lyon.

While France was made to work hard to advance, Germany had no such difficulties in a polished 3-0 victory over Slovakia, while Eden Hazard inspired Belgium to what ended up as a crushing 4-0 win over Hungary.

The goals and the quality of the football over the three games were a marked improvement on the dire performances witnessed on Saturday when Poland, Wales and Portugal advanced.

The relief was palpable at the Stade de Lyon after France finally overwhelmed an Ireland side that had led through Robbie Brady's spot-kick, after France midfielder Paul Pogba bundled Shane Long to the ground.

Ireland chased for every ball and worked tirelessly to defend its slender lead. But Griezmann's two goals in the space of three minutes midway through the second half saw the natural order restored, and a red card for Shane Duffy in the 66th minute all but ended the contest.

"When Ireland took the lead it made us a bit more uncomfortable in the first half," France coach Didier Deschamps acknowledged. "They showed a lot of enthusiasm, but we had to dig deep, get through the situation and get in front."

France's reward is a quarterfinal next Sunday at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis against either England or Iceland, which play in Monday's late kickoff.

Germany scored early and never looked back against a Slovakia side that had surprisingly beaten Joachim Loew's world champions in a friendly last month.

Jerome Boateng broke the deadlock after just eight minutes in Lille with a deflected shot, his first goal in 63 appearances for Germany.

Mesut Ozil missed a penalty shortly afterward, the first by a German player at a European Championship since 1976. But Mario Gomez stabbed home Germany's second just before the break after a clever cutback by Julian Draxler, who then volleyed home the third midway through the second half.

"Now the games that we're looking forward to are coming," Gomez said. "They're why we came to the European Championship. Of course we want the title. And for that you have to beat such teams."

If Slovakia proved to be a relatively easy proposition, the same cannot be said of Germany's next opponent—either two-time defending champion Spain or Italy, which meet on Monday. That quarterfinal will be played on Saturday in Bordeaux.

Hazard may be coming off a very mediocre season with Chelsea, but he lit up the Stade de Toulouse on Sunday.

After Toby Alderweireld headed Belgium into a 10th minute lead, Hazard turned victory into a rout in the closing stages.

He began by surging past Hungary's defense on the left side and sending over a low cross for substitute Michy Batshuayi to steer home in the 78th minute—just two minutes after coming on.

Indians tag Verlander, defeat Tigers again

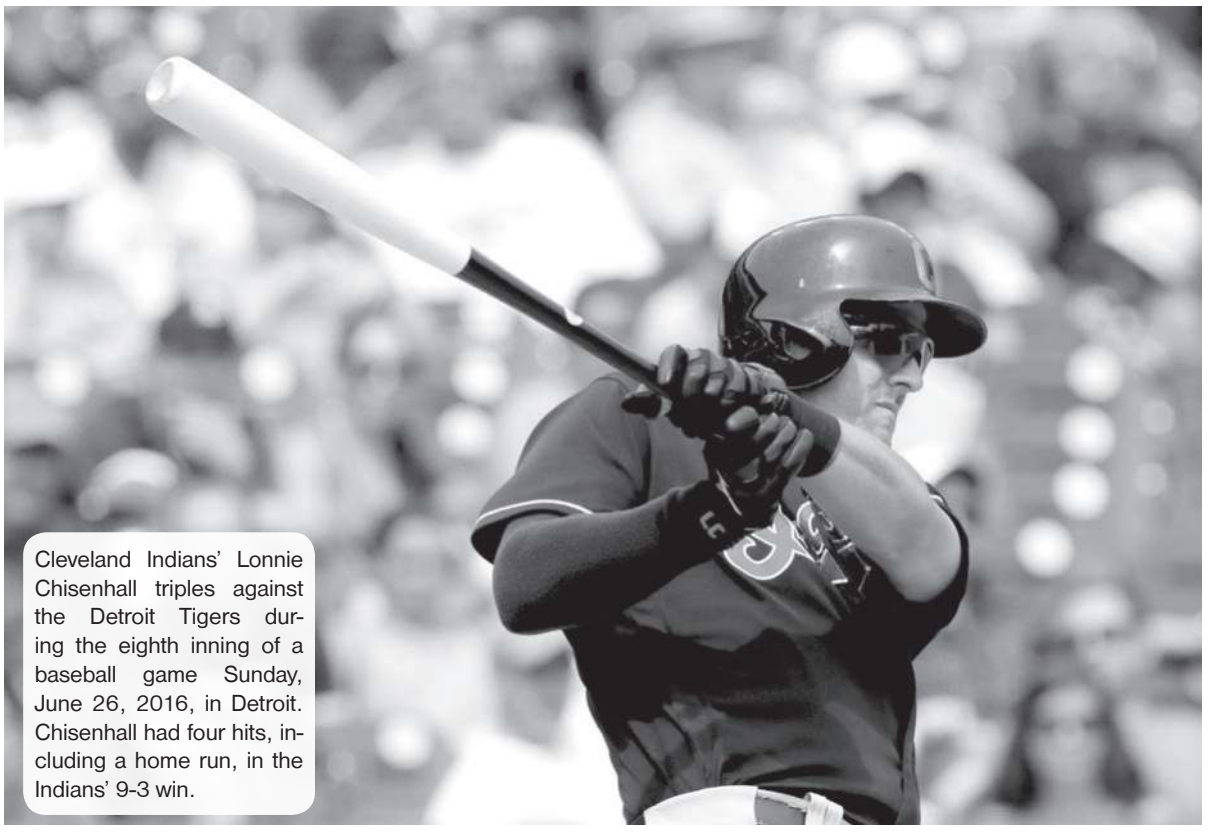
DETROIT (AP)—Lonnie Chisenhall had four hits, including one of Cleveland's four home runs off Justin Verlander in the fifth inning, and the streaking Indians won their ninth straight game Sunday by beating Detroit 9-3 to remain unbeaten in nine meetings with the Tigers this season.

Juan Uribe, Tyler Naquin and Mike Napoli also went deep for the Indians. Chisenhall was 4 for 4 with a triple and three RBI.

Mike Tomlin (9-1) beat Verlander for the third time this year, allowing three runs and six hits in eight innings.

Cleveland overcame three homers by former teammates, including two by Victor Martinez, to sweep Detroit for the third time this year. The Indians have outscored the Tigers 60-20 in nine games.

Only once before had Verlander (7-6) allowed four homers in a start—also against the Indians in 2007. According to the Elias Sports Bureau and Fox Sports Detroit, he became the first pitcher in franchise history to give up four in one inning.



Cleveland Indians' Lonnie Chisenhall triples against the Detroit Tigers during the eighth inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Detroit. Chisenhall had four hits, including a home run, in the Indians' 9-3 win.

Marlins 6, Cubs 1

In Miami, Jose Fernandez delivered another gem at Marlins Park, striking out 13 and allowing one run in seven innings to help Miami beat faltering Chicago.

The Marlins won three of four from the injury-depleted Cubs, who went 1-6 for the week but still have the best record in the majors.

Fernandez (10-3) improved his career record at home to 24-1 with a 1.48 ERA, and this year the right-hander has been pretty good everywhere—he has a 2.28 ERA and 138 strikeouts.

Orioles 12, Rays 5

In Baltimore, Chris Davis hit his seventh career grand slam, and Baltimore completed an unprecedented sweep of Tampa Bay that extended the Rays' losing streak to 11 games.

Jonathan Schoop and Mark Trumbo also homered for the AL East leaders, whose 31-13 home record is the best in the majors. Baltimore has won five straight to climb a season-high 15 games over .500 (45-30).

Davis hit an opposite-field drive to left after the Orioles used a walk and two singles to load the bases with no outs in the first inning against Drew Smyly (2-8).

Pirates 4, Dodgers 3

In Pittsburgh, Chad Kuhl ended Clayton Kershaw's nine-game winning streak in his major league debut, and David Freese hit a three-run double that sent Pittsburgh past Los Angeles.

The 23-year-old Kuhl (1-0) allowed three runs and four hits in five innings after getting called up from Triple-A Indianapolis before the game.

Kershaw (11-2) took his second loss exactly two months after he was beaten by Miami. He gave up four runs and nine hits in six innings, striking out four.

Nationals 3, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Tanner Roark pitched seven shutout innings in place of injured ace Stephen Strasburg, and Washington ended a seven-game losing streak by beating Milwaukee.

Jose Lobaton and Clint Robinson homered for the Nationals. Lobaton hit his first homer of the season in the seventh off reliever Jacob Barnes (0-1). Robinson added a two-run shot in the eighth.

Twins 7, Yankees 1

In New York, Tyler Duffey set down the first 17 New York batters and wound up pitching two-hit ball for eight innings while Minnesota backed him with six home runs.

Brian Dozier, Trevor Plouffe and Max Kepler hit consecutive homers in the sixth to help the Twins end a three-game skid. Danny Santana, Eduardo Nunez and Juan Centeno also connected.

Rockies 9, Diamondbacks 7

In Denver, Mark Reynolds hit a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Colorado over Arizona.

Carlos Gonzalez had a grand slam, and Trevor Story and Charlie Blackmon also went deep for the Rockies, who gained a split of the four-game series.

Story was hit by a pitch leading off the ninth. Silvino Bracho (0-1) retired the next two batters before Reynolds connected for his eighth home run.

Giants 8, Phillies 7

In San Francisco, Conor Gillaspie hit a game-ending double with one out in the ninth inning to lift San Francisco over Philadelphia, giving manager Bruce Bochy his 800th win with the Giants.

Ramiro Pena doubled off Severino Gonzalez (0-1) and scored standing up when Gillaspie lined a 1-1 pitch in the same direction.

Angel Pagan had a season-high four hits and two RBI while five others had two hits apiece for San Francisco, which has won 13 of 15.

Cardinals 11, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Matt Carpenter and Tommy Pham each homered twice as St. Louis went deep six times against Seattle.

Jedd Gyorko and Matt Holliday also homered for St. Louis. Carpenter, Holliday and Aledmys Diaz each had three hits as the Cardinals finished with 17 -- including 13 for extra bases.

Gyorko and Pham led off the seventh with back-to-back home runs against reliever Nick Vincent (1-7) to break a 6-all tie.

Angels 7, Blue Jays 6

In Anaheim, Jefry Marte drove in Mike Trout with a game-ending sacrifice fly, and Los Angeles stopped a six-game losing streak.

Trout led off the ninth with a single against Liam Hendriks (0-1). With one out and the bases loaded, Marte's fly to center field scored Trout easily from third.

The Angels trailed 6-2 after six innings, but Trout hit a two-run homer in the seventh and Marte had an RBI single in a two-run eighth. Huston Street (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Rangers 6, Red Sox 2

In Arlington, the first six Texas hitters reached safely for an early lead, and Martin Perez pitched six solid innings against Boston for his sixth straight win.

Prince Fielder hit a two-run homer for the Rangers, who are 11-0-1 in series since getting swept at Oakland in mid-May.

Royals 6, Astros 1

In Kansas City, Ian Kennedy struck out 11 over seven innings and Kansas City snapped Houston's seven-game winning streak.

After Royals starters Edinson Volquez and Chris Young were roughed up in blowout losses in the first two games of the series, Kennedy (6-6) allowed one run and three hits with one walk.

Braves 5, Mets 2

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman and Adonis Garcia homered, and Bud Norris threw seven scoreless innings to send Atlanta past New York.

Freeman had three hits and a walk, helping the Braves salvage a split of the four-game series.

Brandon Nimmo, one of New York's top prospects, made his major league debut and went 0 for 4 with a game-ending strikeout. The outfielder was recalled from Triple-A Las Vegas on Saturday.

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale pitched eight innings of two-run ball to become the first 13-game winner in the majors, leading Chicago over Toronto.

Tim Anderson and J.B. Shuck homered to help the White Sox take two of three from the slumping Blue Jays, who have dropped five of seven. Chicago (38-38) returned to .500 with its fifth win in seven games.

Sale (13-2) allowed five hits, struck out seven and walked two in his fourth straight victory. David Robertson pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save in 22 chances.

Reds 3, Padres 0

In Cincinnati, Anthony DeSclafani pitched eight innings and singled with the bases loaded, carrying Cincinnati past San Diego in the finale of the Reds' weekend dedicated to Pete Rose.

Until Sunday, the only thing missing from the hits king gala was a win. The Reds' top starter took care of that in front of Cincinnati's third straight sellout crowd.

DeSclafani (2-0) gave up five singles, struck out five and didn't allow a runner to reach second base. He also hit an RBI single in the sixth off Luis Perdomo (2-3).

Whiteside hoping to decide his free-agent future on July 1

MIAMI (AP)—Hassan Whiteside cannot wait to become a free agent.

He also cannot wait for the process to end.

The Miami Heat center—for now, anyway—becomes a free agent on Friday and if all goes according to his plan, that will also be the day that he decides where he'll be playing next season.

The Heat have said retaining Whiteside is a huge priority, and it's believed that Dallas and the Los Angeles Lakers will also be among the teams who will be courting the NBA's reigning blocked-shot champion.

"July 1, hopefully, I'll know," Whiteside said. "I hope it's an easy decision to make."

He made just under $1 million this season and became a star in Miami, averaging 14.2 points, 11.8 rebounds and 3.7 blocks.

His next contract will almost certainly get him something in the range of $20 million annually, and in the span of just a couple of years he's gone from an afterthought toiling in Lebanon, China and the NBA Development League into someone who'll be one of the most pursued free agents this summer.

Asked Sunday what was the most important factor—money, location, surrounding talent or something else—Whiteside said he couldn't pinpoint which would be the top thing.

"It's a toss-up," Whiteside said. "It's a lot of things that come into it. It's not one specific thing. It's like you having a wife. You can't say one specific thing you like about her. You've just got to like her as a whole. I've got to choose it all together. All the dots have to connect."

All the dots connected for him in Miami over the past 18 months.

He went to the Heat in November 2014 as a free agent and before long became an integral part of Miami's plan. He had 63 double-doubles with the Heat in that span, 32 games with at least five blocked shots and four triple-doubles—all with blocks.

Heat forward Udonis Haslem, who also becomes a free agent Friday, said he hopes Whiteside stays.

"The team that gave you a chance when nobody else did, for me, it would be a no-brainer," Haslem told AP on Sunday before Whiteside met with reporters at a 3-on-3 tournament.

‘Tan Ko’ honored at MBC opening ceremony

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios was recognized during the opening of the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic last Friday at the field named after him.

MBC Organizing Committee chair Rose Igitol led the awarding of plaque of appreciation to “Tan Ko” for his contribution to baseball for more than 50 years. “Tan Ko” used to be the scorekeeper/statistician of baseball games on Saipan and selected matches featuring Micronesian teams, including the historic Saipan vs Palau gold medal game in the 1969 Micronesian Olympics. He retired in 2007 and baseball scorekeeping was never the same.

“I am honored with this recognition. I still have the memories and scoresheets of the games I worked with,” said “Tan Ko” through his grandson Rep. J. P. Sablan.

“I am happy to witness the opening of the Micronesian Baseball Classic and see that baseball in Micronesia is well and alive,” he added.

The recognition is an advanced gift for “Tan Ko,” as he will celebrate his 87th birthday next month.

Meanwhile, action in the MBC continued last Sunday with the CNMI Junior Nationals beating Palau in the evening match, 14-9.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micronesian Baseball Classic Organizing Committee chair Rose Igitol congratulates Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios before handing over the plaque of appreciation in recognition of his contribution to the sport for more than five decades, during the opening of the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic last Saturday at the “Tan Ko” ballfield.

The Commonwealth’s junior crew had a steady offense in the first three innings to gain control of the match. Palau, on the other hand, scored only in the second of the first seven innings, allowing the CNMI to take an 11-4 advantage.

The home team got two runs in the first off Jhace Palacios’ RBI triple and A.J. Evangelista’s sacrifice out; added three runs from Palau’s miscue in the second plus Evangelista run (stolen base); and one run off a fielder’s choice, a RBI walk, and Jesse Brel’s RBI single in the third. Palau scored four runs in the second inning off a wild pitch, passed ball, fielder’s choice, and Stud Alfred’s single before going cold from the third to seventh inning.

The CNMI was also without runs in the fourth and fifth, but managed to tack on two each in the sixth and eighth and one more in the last for more cushion to foil Palau’s comeback bid. Palau tallied one run in the penultimate inning and added four in the last before Peyton Lizama halted the rally with a 1-3 putout play and a strikeout.

Stunner at US Olympic swim trials: Lochte beaten in 400 IM

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) Ryan Lochte powered out to a big lead in the event he won four years ago at the London Olympics, his powerful arms churning through the water, looking very much like a lock for another trip to the games.

Actually, he was trying to hide the pain.

By the end, it was apparent to everyone.

In a stunner on the very first night of the U.S. swimming trials, an ailing Lochte was denied a chance to defend his Olympic title in the 400-meter individual medley, finishing third Sunday behind a pair of college teammates who raced right by him on the closing laps.

“I went out there and did my best,” Lochte said. “It wasn’t enough.”

Lochte appeared to be swimming in molasses on the breaststroke and freestyle legs, allowing Chase Kalisz and Jay Litherland to claim the two spots on the U.S. team for Rio.

Actually, the 11-time Olympic medalist was hindered by a groin injury sustained in the morning preliminaries.

“I thought about ... scratching,” Lochte said. “But, I mean, it’s the Olympic trials. If I had a broken leg, I’d still go out there and swim.”

Lochte is entered in five more events in Omaha, giving the 31-year-old plenty of chances to make his fourth Olympic team. But the groin injury raises doubts about how effective he’ll be in any of those races.

“I’m going to keep working on it day in and day out, and hopefully it gets better,” said Lochte, who might get a cortisone shot to help deal with the pain.

He tried to compensate for his injury by going out faster than usual on the butterfly and backstroke legs, giving him a two body-length lead at the midway point.

That wasn’t nearly enough.

With his legs of little use on the breaststroke, Lochte ceded the lead to Kalisz. Then it was Litherland blowing past Lochte on the freestyle to take the second spot for Brazil.

Kalisz and Litherland hugged and whooped it up in the water, the University of Georgia teammates both headed to their first Olympics.

Lochte hung on a lane rope, totally exhausted. He finally made it over to the side of the pool, struggling just to climb out of the water.

MAJOR

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Hocog, Heath Camacho, and Delbert Sablan reached home for the Commonwealth. Reid Teregeyo did not score for the John Maratita-managed squad, but had three RBIs off his 1-for-3 stint at the plate. Sablan and Kyle Kapileo added one RBI each. Sablan, Kaipat, Joven Reyes, Hocog, and Patrick Celis worked the mound for the CNMI.

Jackson Murphy led Dubai with his 2-for-2 performance at the plate and two RBIs. Dubai scored four of its eight runs off the CNMI’s errors. The Commonwealth had five earned runs.

Against the Philippines, the CNMI had more hits, going 6-for-23 versus the PH’s 3-for-23, but the former still won as the latter failed to produce a single run.

The Philippines scored one run each in the second and third inning and used four pitches to shut down the CNMI, which had Agulto, Kapileo, and Sablan on the mound.

With its two straight losses, the CNMI dropped to a tie for second place with the Philippines, Dubai, and Guam as the four teams hold similar 1-1 records. Host Korea is ahead in Pool A with its 2-0 mark, while India is at the bottom after falling to a 0-2 mark. Thailand leads Pool B with its 2-0 mark and is followed by Chinese-Taipei (1-0), Hong Kong (1-1), Saudi (0-1), and China (0-2).

The CNMI will play Korea today and then India tomorrow. The Top 2 placers in each pool will advance to the playoffs.

BLUE

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rio, and physiotherapist Pam Carhill.

Sekiguchi said the Blue Ayuyus are all set after going through two training camps and holding practice sessions on the island for months. The first camp was held from March 9 to 13 in San Diego, California with the 13 off-island players meeting for the first time after getting invites to join the CNMI training pool. Some of the off-island players then came to island late last month to be with other members of the pool and train before heading to the Philippines for the second and final training camp.

“The training camps were very helpful because our players were able to put into play what we have been practicing. It’s hard to get quality matches here for our players, so we’re happy that we’re able to have training matches in San Diego and in the Philippines,” Sekiguchi said.

The CNMI mentor added there’s nothing to worry about the health of the team after five players were brought to the hospital in the Philippines due to bacterial infection (stomach).

“They will be OK, I am not worried as they will recover in time for the games. We will be facing teams that are stronger than us and we will do our very best to give good results,” Sekiguchi said.

In the EAFF tournament, the Blue Ayuyus will be battling Chinese-Taipei, Macau, and Mongolia. The top finisher in Round 1 will advance to Round 2 competition, which will be held in November in Chinese-Taipei. The Finals is set for next year in Tokyo.

Send-off gift

No less than Gov. Ralph Torres led the well wishers of both the CNMI men’s and women’s teams and he gave the players a fitting send-off gift—a pitch in Koblerville.

“The pitch will have its ground breaking in October,” Torres said.

“This is what you want and this is what you need. The football association and its president Mr. Jerry Tan never asked the Legislature or the Governor’s Office for any financial support to your program because he understood the economic challenges we went through in the past so with this pitch and the available government property, we hope at least we are able to help you,” Torres said.

Tan, who was also present at the send-off ceremony, thanked Torres and the CNMI government for their continued support to the Commonwealth’s football program.

“We are fortunate to enjoy the support of our government. Soccer is relatively new to the island compared to baseball, American football, and basketball, and having support from both the public and private sectors is very important in ensuring the growth of the sport,” Tan said.

The Northern Mariana Island Football Association president also thanked EAFF for giving CNMI the opportunity to compete in the region where majority of the best Asian teams can be found.

CNMI

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Sally, Mikky Vargas, Guinevere Borja, Chloe Salvosa, Dianne Pablo, Gillian Villagomez, De Jana Muna, Krizzel Mae Tuason, Carla Mae Ballesteros, and Taylor Knecht, team manager Angie Ito, and assistant coach Jacky Lee.

“The training camp in the Philippines was very helpful because our girls were able to compete against different players with high level skills,” Koo said.

The CNMI women’s crew first played Nomad FC and lost, 1-2, with Borja scoring the lone goal for the Commonwealth off a pass from Jeraldine Castro. Next up for the visiting team was Ateneo University and this time the former won, 2-1, off Jeraldine Castillo and Pablo’s goals. In their last game (against Chelsea FC Philippines, Salvosa had a pair, while Knecht added one for the 3-2 victory.

“Those were good wins and a big boost to the players’ morale. I just hope they will bring that momentum in Guam and avoid silly mistakes that could give our opponents chances to score,” Koo said.

“They have to keep their focus in the game all the time and not let their guards down,” he added.

In Guam, the CNMI bets will be facing the host team and Macau with the top finisher in the round-robin tournament moving into the second round of competition, set for November in Chinese-Taipei.

“We beat Macau before, but we don’t know if they will have the same team. As for Guam, they always have a strong team, so we really have to work doubly hard to keep up with them,” Koo added.

The CNMI clobbered Macau, 7-0, during the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association on July 24, 2014 in Guam, a day after the Commonwealth earned its first international match in the men’s division with the Blue Ayuyus edging Macau, too, 2-1.

2016 Silver Streak Fun Run Finishers

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three runners in the 3K event of the 23rd Annual Tom Picarro Memorial /Silver Streak Fun Run held this month head to the finish line.

Raj Rai slows down as he nears the finish line.

Rommel Buenaflor is a few steps away from completing the 7K course.

Mamiko Berger is on her way to a first place finish overall in the 7K course.

Ronald Villafria keeps a steady pace as he heads to the finish line.

As usual, Chang Wan Jang runs along the course barefoot.

Ayaka Sato is near completion of the 3K course.

Kengo Sato approaches the finish line.

Ernie Moises gestures as he is a few meters away from finishing the 3K course.

Chile wins Copa; Messi misses, quitting Argentina

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Indians tag Verlander, defeat Tigers again

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Blue Ayuyus: We are ready!

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gov. Ralph Torres, fourth left back row, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, third left back row, join the CNMI Men's National Team players and officials for a group photo during the send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team is all set for the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1.

"We are ready," Blue Ayuyus coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday after attending the send-off ceremony for the team at Kanoa Resort.

Sekiguchi is bringing in 18 players to the East Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament that will run from June 29 to July 4 at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo. The CNMI lineup is made up of goalies Johann Noetzel and Chris Aninzo, Kennedy Izuka, Lucas Knecht, Enrico Del Rosario, Joel Fruit, Jehn Joyner, Darin Kaizer, Michah Griffin, William Dunn, Hunter Jewell, Joe Miller, Peter Loken, and James Ermitanio, who were at the send-off ceremony. Completing the squad are Kirk Schuler, Nicolas Swaim, and Jonathan Takano, who are now in Guam waiting for the rest of the team, which will leave Saipan today. Completing the squad are assistant coach Jersh Angeles, goalkeeper coach Taketomo Suzuki, team manager Norman Del Rosa-

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CNMI women's team gains confidence

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A confident CNMI Women's National Team is heading to Guam today for the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1.

"This team is now confident that they can win games," said coach Luam Khen Koo after the squad completed its training camp in the Philippines and won two of their three friendly matches there last week.

"Three or four years ago, they were not confident as they struggled to work on their skills. This time, they are improving and it shows in their games. They are playing with confidence," Koo added.

The coach joined the rest of the team in a send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort. The women's squad has an 18-player roster led by captain Gabrielle Race. Completing the group are Chevy Kate Alipio, Elaine Enriquez, Sarah Allen, Bernadette Horey, Jeralyn and Jeraldine Castillo, Lyka

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gov. Ralph Torres, fifth left back row, turns over the CNMI flag to CNMI Women's National Team captain Gabrielle Race during the send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort for the Commonwealth's squads that will be competing in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1 this week.

Major All-Stars bow to PH, Dubai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Major All-Star Team absorbed back-to-back losses in the 2016 Asia Pacific/Middle East Regional Championships.

The Commonwealth bets, who won against Guam, 7-3, last Saturday during their debut in the World Series qualifier that is being held in Seoul, South Korea, bowed to the Philippines last Sunday, 0-2, and lost to Dubai yesterday, 6-8.

Against Dubai, the CNMI was ahead, 6-3, after four complete innings before a five-run top of the fifth changed the former's fortunes. Dubai got its three other runs at the top of the third inning, while the CNMI had one at the bottom before gaining five in the fourth to grab the upper hand.

Ken Kaipat, Justin Agulto, Vincent Nakamura, Alvin

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Little Legals' Delbert Sablan, seen here delivering a pitch, was one of the pitchers the CNMI used against Dubai in their game in the 2016 Asia Pacific/Middle East Regional Championships yesterday in Seoul, South Korea.